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Agenda item 34
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, dated 27 March 2014, regarding the twenty-seventh round of the Geneva international discussions (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 28 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia regarding the twenty-seventh round of the Geneva international discussions

The twenty-seventh round of the Geneva international discussions was held on 26 March 2014. The participants in the Geneva discussions took part, in their individual capacity, in the two Working Groups, the first focusing on security and stability in the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, and the second on the issues related to the safe and dignified return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their permanent residence in the Russian-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia. The discussions were co-chaired by the representatives of the European Union, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and attended by participants from Georgia, the Russian Federation and the United States. The Head of the Provisional Administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, as well as representatives of the Sokhumi and Tskhinvali occupation regimes, took part in the twenty-seventh round of the Geneva discussions.

On 25 March, an information session was held, on "public health issues". The invited expert familiarized the participants with the principal determinants of health, including the importance of access to health services. In the course of the meeting within Working Group I, the alarming security situation on the ground — continued build-up of the military infrastructure, military training, violations of the airspace controlled by the Georgian Government, armed attacks and increased practices of kidnapping, as well as other provocative incidents — were brought to the attention of the co-Chairs.

In the framework of Working Group I, the Georgian participants raised their serious concern over the resumption of the installation of barbed-wire fences and other artificial obstacles by the Russian occupation forces along the occupation line in the Tskhinvali region. Since February 2014, Russia's illegal activities on the sovereign territory of Georgia in flagrant breach of the norms and principles of international law and the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008 have been resumed in the villages of Atotsi and Ghogheti of the Kareli district after being temporarily suspended during the Sochi Olympics. This provocative policy poses a serious threat to the security situation on the ground, causes a humanitarian crisis and does not contribute to the de-escalation of relations between Georgia and Russia. After our numerous calls upon the Russian Federation to reverse its destructive actions against Georgia and fulfil the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, we strongly appeal to the international community to activate its diplomatic and political clout in the face of the ongoing provocations and address the security and humanitarian consequences of these alarming developments. The present security context in the occupied regions of Georgia underscores the particular importance of the reinforced presence of the European Union Monitoring Mission and stresses the necessity of ensuring the Mission's access to both regions in line with its mandate.

During the twenty-seventh round, the participants addressed one of the central items of the agenda pertaining to the non-use of force. Georgia remains fully committed to the Ceasefire Agreement of 12 August 2008, stressing the non-use of force, which is continuously disregarded by the Russian Federation. Georgia's commitment has been further strengthened by its unilateral legally binding non-use of force pledge, undertaken in 2010 and reiterated by the Parliament of Georgia in 2013. During the last few rounds, Georgian participants have been constructively engaged in the process of drafting, on the expert level, a draft statement by the participants in the Geneva international discussions on the non-use of force, initiated by the co-Chairs. We have spared no effort to advance the drafting process, while clearly stressing that this statement should in no way substitute for a legally binding commitment from the Russian Federation on the non-use of force. Today, in the context of the mounting assertiveness of the Russian Federation aimed at preventing neighbouring countries from seeking their free foreign policy choice, and violating their territorial integrity and political independence, its legally binding non-use of force commitment in relation to Georgia remains imperative; it would constitute a vital mechanism averting Moscow's further aggression.

Furthermore, in the light of the alarming developments in the region, Georgia appeals to the co-Chairs and their respective organizations to double their efforts with the aim of ensuring the establishment of international security arrangements. Only the creation of valid and effective international mechanisms in the occupied regions can safeguard Georgia's unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

In Working Group II, Georgian participants brought to the attention of the co-Moderators the persisting violations of human rights in the occupied Tskhinvali and Abkhazia regions and focused on the concrete humanitarian consequences of Russia's illegal activities along the occupation line and in the adjacent areas. In addition, concrete examples of the restriction of freedom of movement and the right to education and health have been extensively discussed. It was stressed that local residents, regardless of their ethnic origins, should exercise their social, economic and cultural rights, and, inter alia, enjoy freedom of movement, right to education in their native language and health care. To this end, the Georgian participants placed great emphasis on the importance of the creation of human rights monitoring mechanisms in the occupied regions.

Within Working Group II, the Georgian participants emphasized the importance of preserving the monuments of cultural and historic heritage located in the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia. To take concrete steps in this direction, the discussions focused on the possibility of establishing a joint expert group.

The twenty-eighth round of the Geneva international discussions will be held on 17 and 18 June 2014. Georgia attaches immense value to the participation of the Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the European External Action Service, Mr. Luis Felipe Fernández de La Peña, in the discussions during the twenty-seventh round, which constitutes an additional demonstration of the strong engagement of the European Union in conflict resolution and its steady role in peace and security in Georgia. Georgia once again welcomes the participation of the Special Representative of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Angelo Gnaedinger, and is confident that his personal input, as well as the contribution of the Swiss side to the discussions, will be of valuable importance. The Georgian participants are committed to further continuing their constructive cooperation with the co-Chairs with the aim of ensuring substantive discussions in both Working Groups.

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Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 10
Implementation of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and the Political Declarations on HIV/AIDS

Towards ending the AIDS epidemic: meeting the 2015 targets and planning for the post-2015 era

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

As the 2015 deadline fast approaches for reaching the targets and commitments set by the General Assembly in its 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS (resolution 65/277, annex), evidence shows that the global HIV response has reached an important stage. New HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths continue to decline. Optimism is high that the world will eliminate new HIV infections among children and keep mothers alive. Despite continuing economic challenges and competing priorities, the total resources available for HIV programmes in low- and middle-income countries continue to grow.

The world has an historic opportunity to lay the foundation for ending the AIDS epidemic. However, success is not assured. While recent progress and overall global trends are encouraging, they mask the reality that far too many people living with and affected by HIV are being left behind. In dozens of countries, lifesaving antiretroviral treatment reaches only a fraction of those who are eligible and worldwide, only about one in three people eligible for treatment were receiving it as at December 2012.

Far too often, discrimination, criminalization and punitive approaches are limiting an effective HIV response for those in greatest need, especially key populations at higher risk of infection. Of particular concern is the emergence of new legislative initiatives to criminalize certain key populations, which not only violates human rights but also drives people away from essential services. Experience has demonstrated that fear, blame and ostracism are not the ingredients for success in the HIV response. We have more tools than ever to address the epidemic and our response must be guided by science and shared values rather than by prejudice and denial.

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The AIDS response is also failing young people. Children are roughly only half as likely as adults to obtain antiretroviral therapy when needed. Even as AIDS-related deaths decline overall, HIV-related mortality among adolescents has increased by 50 per cent since 2005. In sub-Saharan Africa, infection rates remain substantially higher among girls than among boys of a similar age.

Although we are within reach of several of the key targets and goals for 2015, AIDS will remain an urgent global health and development challenge when the calendar turns to 2016. In order to build on the extraordinary gains that have been achieved and address persistent challenges, ending AIDS will need to be given a prominent place in the post-2015 development agenda. The AIDS response has much to offer the broader development field, with its emphasis on advocacy, community empowerment, high-level political leadership, evidence- and rights-based action, innovative models of care and prevention and broad-based partnerships and collaboration. Similarly, the AIDS response will be immeasurably strengthened if it is taken out of isolation to serve as a mechanism to accelerate progress across the future sustainable development goals. In particular, there are important synergies between the AIDS response and global efforts to eliminate extreme poverty, ensure universal health coverage and reduce inequalities.

Ending the AIDS epidemic will be an historic global achievement for the entire human family, one that will, in the process, also enhance gender equality, promote human rights and address the determinants of inequity and exclusion. While 2015 represents a major milestone in the AIDS response, the work must continue and intensify if we are to achieve the shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

I. Introduction

1. Having strived for more than 30 years to address one of the most serious health challenges of our time, the world is witnessing historic gains in the response to HIV. The number of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths globally continues to decline, with especially striking reductions in the number of children newly infected with HIV. Many countries have taken steps to increase domestic public sector financing for HIV-related activities, an encouraging sign for the long-term sustainability of the response.

2. These advances, while impressive, are not seen everywhere, as new HIV infections continue to rise in many countries, especially among key populations. Although tools are available for laying the foundation to end AIDS, they have yet to be fully leveraged. Condom provision is stalling and less than half of the people eligible for antiretroviral therapy under the World Health Organization (WHO) 2013 *Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection* are currently receiving lifesaving treatment services. Owing in large part to the failure to effectively address the underlying social determinants of HIV vulnerability, progress in the response could well be stalled or even reversed in future years, underscoring the urgent importance of continued vigilance, international solidarity and strengthened efforts.

3. In the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS (General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex), countries united around the goal of laying a strong foundation to end the epidemic. The 2011 Political Declaration pledges concerted action to achieve a series of milestones by the end of 2015. To support the achievement of those targets, countries committed to close the AIDS resource gap, to promote a response more closely linked with broader development efforts and to eliminate gender inequalities, stigma and discrimination.

4. As the time of writing, barely 600 days remain before the 2015 targets and commitments come due. While the world is presently on track to meet some of the 10 priority targets and commitments of the 2011 Political Declaration, we remain short of achieving most of them. In far too many countries, few, if any, of the targets will be achieved by 2015 if current trends continue. It is essential that countries immediately redouble their efforts to ensure that proven approaches are fully implemented, scaled up and strategically focused on the geographic settings and populations where they will have the greatest impact. At the same time that these responses are being strengthened and accelerated, efforts to lay the groundwork for a sustainable, and effective response beyond 2015 are essential for long-term success. As the progress over the past decade indicates, ending AIDS is within our grasp, and we have an exceptional number of lessons learned on which to build. However, the degree to which we achieve that goal is largely up to us.

II. Global AIDS epidemic: a status report

5. As at December 2012, an estimated 35.3 million (32.2 to 38.8 million) people were living with HIV worldwide. Women comprise 50 per cent of all people living with HIV, including an estimated 58 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa. The epidemic continues to disproportionately affect sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for an

estimated 71 per cent of all people living with HIV globally, 70 per cent of new HIV infections and 75 per cent of AIDS-related deaths. Outside sub-Saharan Africa, the largest number of people living with HIV is in the Asia-Pacific region (4.8 million people in 2012, of whom 36 per cent are women), although HIV prevalence is substantially lower than in sub-Saharan Africa.

6. Promising epidemiological trends demonstrate that HIV prevention and treatment programmes are having an impact. The estimated number of new HIV infections in 2012 globally (2.3 [1.9-2.7] million) was 33 per cent lower than the number in 2001, while the annual number of AIDS-related deaths (1.6 [1.4-1.9] million in 2012) has fallen by 30 per cent since 2005.

7. However, not all countries, communities and populations are sharing in these gains. New HIV infections continue to increase in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and parts of Asia. No notable reduction in the pace of AIDS-related deaths has been reported in the regions where new infections continue to increase.

8. The epidemic varies widely within and between countries and regions. In Kenya, for example, 9 of the country's 47 counties account for 54 per cent of new HIV infections, while 70 per cent of incident infections in Thailand occur in 33 provinces. Although there are limited data on HIV risk among transgender men and women, a desk review of information from 15 countries found that transgender women are 49 times more likely than adults of reproductive age generally to have HIV. HIV prevalence is 13.5 times higher among female sex workers than among women overall. Men who have sex with men are 19 times more likely to be living with HIV than men generally. In at least 49 countries, HIV prevalence among people who inject drugs is at least 22 times higher than among the general population. Globally, the prevalence of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis may, in some cases, be up to 50 times higher among prison populations than among the general population.

9. The epidemic continues to exact an enormous toll on the world's young people (ages 15 to 24), who account for 39 per cent of new HIV infections among adults. Risks for young women are especially pronounced. In sub-Saharan Africa, young women aged 15 to 24 are twice as likely to be living with HIV as young men their age. In the midst of broad declines in AIDS-related deaths, the number of adolescents (ages 10 to 19) dying of AIDS-related causes actually increased by 50 per cent between 2005 and 2012 — a clear indication that the response is largely failing to reach many young people.

10. As scaled-up antiretroviral therapy extends lives and improves quality of life, older adults are accounting for an increased share of people living with HIV. Globally, an estimated 3.6 million (3.2 to 3.9 million) people living with HIV were over age 50 in 2012, the first time in the epidemic's history that older adults comprised more than 10 per cent of people living with HIV. This global trend follows earlier patterns seen in high-income countries, where 30 per cent or more of people living with HIV are over age 50. As the overall population living with HIV ages owing to improved treatment options, the programmes serving them will need to address not only HIV but also the health and living challenges associated with ageing.

III. Progress towards the 2015 targets

11. This section describes progress towards the 2015 targets set out in the 2011 Political Declaration. For each of the 10 targets and elimination commitments discussed below, continuing challenges and the key action steps needed to meet those challenges are described. Although the discussion focuses on past achievements and gaps, experience to date has enabled the global community to identify the most promising strategies for overcoming key barriers, providing a strong foundation on which to reach the goal of ending AIDS in the post-2015 era.

1. Reduce sexual transmission of HIV by 50 per cent by 2015

12. Important progress has been made in preventing sexual HIV transmission. The annual number of new HIV infections in sub-Saharan Africa fell by 34 per cent between 2001 and 2012, with a decline of 49 per cent reported in the Caribbean during the same period. In 16 sub-Saharan African countries, adult HIV incidence declined by more than 50 per cent between 2001 and 2012. Reductions in new infections flow in large measure from changes in sexual risk behaviour, including increased condom use, delayed sexual debut and a decrease in the average number of sexual partners. However, recent national household surveys have detected increases in the number of sex partners and reductions in condom use in several African countries, underscoring the need for continued investments in primary HIV prevention to sustain prevention advances.

13. Although continued scale-up of antiretroviral therapy (see paras. 25 to 32 below) is buttressing HIV prevention efforts, the commitment to other forms of HIV prevention may be waning. The number of donor-funded male condoms in low- and middle-income countries dropped from 3.4 billion in 2011 to 2.4 billion in 2012, while the number of donor-provided female condoms fell from 43.4 million to 31.8 million. Midterm reviews in 2013 of national progress towards the 2015 targets reflected declining support in several countries for social and behavioural HIV prevention programmes. Many young people lack access to comprehensive sexuality education that responds to their evolving needs and capacities and remain largely uninvolved in policy dialogues regarding issues that affect them. Continued support for evidence-based prevention is needed to lower the still unacceptably high rate of new HIV infections and to avert possible increases in sexual risk behaviours as HIV treatment alters popular perceptions of the disease.

14. Considerable gains have been made in scaling up voluntary medical male circumcision, which has the potential to avert more than 20 per cent of all new infections projected through 2030. As at December 2012, 3.2 million African men aged 15 to 49 had been circumcised in the 14 sub-Saharan African countries where scale-up had been recommended. Although that represents only 15 per cent of the target of 20 million circumcisions by 2015, the pace of scale-up is rapidly accelerating, with more than double the number of circumcisions performed in 2012 than were performed in 2011. South Africa performed more male circumcisions than any other priority country, followed by Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia, with each country performing more than 130,000 circumcision procedures in 2012. Kenya has achieved the highest circumcision coverage, having reached more than 60 per cent of its target as at December 2012. In 2013, WHO prequalified the first non-surgical circumcision

device for adults, offering a potentially attractive alternative to traditional surgical circumcision.

15. Failure to reach key populations with evidence-informed and human rights-based prevention services represents a critical gap in current efforts to reduce sexual HIV transmission. Prevention coverage for these populations remains inadequate in large measure owing to insufficient financing for such efforts, as only 10 per cent of HIV prevention funding supports programmes for key populations. Currently, the limited HIV prevention efforts for these key populations are overwhelmingly financed by international donors, underscoring the need for substantially greater national leadership and commitment to ensure that those most in need receive essential HIV prevention support.

16. There is growing evidence that social protection, livelihood protection, financial incentives and economic empowerment programmes reduce the risk of HIV acquisition by alleviating economic vulnerability, which may encourage risky behaviours. Studies of various cash transfer schemes in Lesotho, Malawi and the United Republic of Tanzania have found that such programmes encourage safer sexual behaviours and reduce new HIV and sexually transmitted infections among young women. As the number of countries with cash transfer programmes has steadily increased in recent years, efforts are needed to leverage such initiatives to strengthen HIV prevention efforts. A recent four-country review found that many people living with HIV experience barriers in accessing social protection schemes owing to such factors as stigma, bureaucratic complexity and lack of awareness.

2. Halve the transmission of HIV among people who inject drugs by 2015

17. Little progress has been made towards the global goal of reducing new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, with this population accounting for more than 40 per cent of new infections in some countries. Globally, people who inject drugs represent an estimated 0.2 to 0.5 per cent of the world's population (an estimated 14 million people) but make up 5 to 10 per cent of people living with HIV. Transmission through sharing contaminated injecting equipment is the driving force of national epidemics in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and in parts of East and South-East Asia and has emerged as an important factor in East Africa.

18. Although a comprehensive package of harm reduction services has been demonstrated to substantially lower the risk of HIV acquisition among people who inject drugs, service coverage remains extremely low. Globally, only 8 per cent of people who inject drugs have access to opioid substitution therapy and worldwide, only two clean needles are distributed per person per month. Punitive laws, including overuse of incarceration for people who inject drugs, and an acute lack of HIV services in prison settings impede efforts to address the HIV-related needs of people who inject drugs.

19. While global trends are discouraging, occasional hopeful signs have emerged, providing momentum on which to build a more robust, effective response for people who use drugs. According to recent surveys, more people who inject drugs report having used sterile equipment the last time they injected than in previous years. In addition, a number of countries have made funding for harm reduction services a priority: a practice that merits emulation by other countries.

3. Eliminate HIV infections among children and reduce maternal deaths

20. Progress continues in world efforts to prevent children from acquiring HIV. Since 2005, services to prevent mother-to-child transmission have averted 850,000 new infections among children. In 2012, some 260,000 (130,000 to 320,000) children were newly infected with HIV, a 52 per cent decline compared with 2001 and a 35 per cent reduction over the past three years. While these gains are historic, the pace of progress will need to increase if the world is to meet its goal of eliminating new HIV infections among children by 2015.

21. Although coverage of antiretroviral prophylaxis for pregnant women living with HIV continues to increase globally, rising from 57 per cent in 2011 to 62 per cent in 2012, coverage continues to lag in many countries. Prevention coverage for pregnant women remains below 50 per cent in 13 countries with generalized epidemics, below 30 per cent regionally in Asia and the Pacific, and below 20 per cent in the Middle East and North Africa.

22. The 2013 WHO guidelines, which call for lifelong antiretroviral therapy for pregnant women living with HIV, offer an important platform on which to accelerate progress towards the global goal of eliminating mother-to-child transmission and improving health outcomes for pregnant women and mothers living with HIV, as this approach has proved highly effective in spurring accelerated scale-up of prevention services in antenatal settings. Improving service coverage and outcomes will also demand more systematic collection, analysis and use of strategic information across the service cascade for prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

23. Other elements of effective prevention of new infections in children, as outlined in the Global Plan Towards the Elimination of New HIV Infections Among Children by 2015 and Keeping Their Mothers Alive: 2011-2015, have yet to be brought to scale. Antiretroviral coverage for pregnant women living with HIV is substantially lower during the breastfeeding period (49 per cent) than during pregnancy and delivery (62 per cent). While the unmet need for contraception declined somewhat between 1990 and 2010, gaps remain considerable, with more than 20 per cent of women in East and West Africa lacking access to family planning services. Modelling indicates that reducing the unmet need for family planning services is critical to reaching the 2015 target to eliminate mother-to-child transmission. In working to close gaps in the prevention continuum, countries should link programmes for pregnant women and children with broader efforts to reduce gender inequalities and provide women and girls with the tools they need to protect themselves from HIV.

24. The world is failing to address the needs of children living with HIV. Treatment-eligible children are about half as likely to obtain antiretroviral therapy as treatment-eligible adults. The 2013 WHO guidelines recommend initiation of antiretroviral therapy, regardless of CD4 count, for all children under age 5 who are living with HIV. Implementation of this approach will require substantial improvements in access to early infant diagnostic services, with three priority countries reporting diagnostic coverage of less than 5 per cent. In addition, urgent global attention is required to address the perceived lack of financial incentives for the development of a comprehensive array of paediatric antiretroviral formulations.

4. Reach 15 million people living with HIV with lifesaving antiretroviral treatment by 2015

25. As at December 2012, 9.7 million people in low- and middle-income countries were receiving antiretroviral therapy, an increase of 1.6 million over 2011. The steady expansion of access to antiretroviral therapy is transforming HIV responses across the world. From 1995 to 2012, antiretroviral therapy averted an estimated 6.6 million AIDS-related deaths worldwide, including 5.5 million in low- and middle-income countries. In KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, scale-up of antiretroviral therapy has been associated with an increase of 11.3 years in life expectancy. According to a recent analysis by leading economists, earlier initiation of antiretroviral therapy is highly cost-effective, with manageable incremental costs associated with substantial increases in disability-adjusted life years averted.

26. While the scale-up of antiretroviral therapy represents one of the signal achievements in the history of global health, persistent gaps undermine efforts to achieve universal treatment access. In addition to the previously described treatment disparities among children, treatment-eligible men are 22 per cent less likely to receive HIV treatment compared with treatment-eligible women. Stigma and discrimination, often reinforced by punitive laws and policies, also deter utilization of HIV testing and treatment services by key populations. For example, it is estimated that only 4 per cent of treatment-eligible people who inject drugs are receiving antiretroviral therapy. Regionally, access to HIV treatment remains extremely low in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa. Treatment coverage is notably lower in West and Central Africa than in Eastern and Southern Africa.

27. Under the 2013 WHO guidelines, an estimated 28.6 million people worldwide are now eligible for antiretroviral therapy. It is clear that, at some point in their lives, all people living with HIV will require HIV treatment. Modelling by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) indicates that achieving 95 per cent coverage under the 2013 guidelines would result in an 83 per cent decline in AIDS-related deaths by 2020 compared with the peak in HIV-related mortality in 2004. To implement the 2013 guidelines, service providers will need to be prepared to offer care that meets the needs of people at a much earlier stage of infection.

28. Countries urgently need to assess their national treatment guidelines, with the aim of aligning them with the 2013 WHO guidelines. A UNAIDS review of treatment guidelines in 108 countries in early 2014 found that only eight countries (including four in sub-Saharan Africa) had formally endorsed use of the 500 CD4 count threshold for treatment initiation for most people living with HIV. More than half of the countries (58) recommend initiation of treatment at 350 CD4 or less. By contrast, at least five countries, as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia, now recommend initiation of HIV treatment for all people diagnosed with HIV, regardless of CD4 count. In December 2013, Brazil became the first middle-income country to recommend offering HIV treatment for all, regardless of CD4 count, with priority to symptomatic individuals or asymptomatic individuals with CD4 counts below 500.

29. The comprehensiveness and effectiveness of service systems will also need to be improved in order to optimize the potential benefits of antiretroviral treatment. Owing to gaps across the treatment cascade, fewer than one in four people living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa have achieved viral suppression, the clinical goal of

antiretroviral therapy. The typical person who enters HIV treatment in the region has a low CD4 count, and substantial percentages encounter difficulties in adhering to treatment or remaining in care. Food assistance, stigma reduction, patient navigation, peer-based adherence support, innovative use of mobile communications technologies and other strategies have proved effective in reducing patient loss across the treatment cascade.

30. As antiretroviral therapy is lifelong, planning for sustainability needs to be built into national treatment programmes. Expanding employment opportunities for people living with HIV has an important role to play in sustaining treatment gains, since people living with HIV who are employed are 39 per cent more likely to adhere to prescribed regimens as those who are unemployed. In the light of the increase in 2013 in humanitarian emergencies resulting from conflict and natural disaster, plans should be in place to ensure continuity of HIV treatment when and where such emergencies arise.

31. Further lowering the costs of antiretroviral medicines remains a critical priority. Countries such as South Africa and Swaziland have achieved notable reductions in the prices of antiretroviral medicines through careful structuring of national tenders. Steps to preserve a robust manufacturing capacity for generic medicines are critically important. In addition, countries urgently need to maximize the use of flexibilities available under international rules for intellectual property and avoid making commitments that might impede their ability to use trade-related intellectual property rights (TRIPS) flexibilities to the fullest extent possible. This becomes all the more important as multilateral funding for HIV treatment becomes less available in regions with many middle-income countries, such as Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

32. In 2013, UNAIDS joined with WHO, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief to launch the Treatment 2015 initiative, which provides a road map for accelerating treatment scale-up, including in the years beyond 2015. This new initiative urges focused attention on neglected aspects of the treatment agenda, including the urgent need to invest in strategies to increase demand for testing and treatment services. Treatment 2015 calls for all countries to establish new treatment targets to reflect the 2013 WHO guidelines and to routinely monitor outcomes across the treatment cascade. Partners in the initiative have joined together to intensify financial and technical support to 30 priority countries that account for 90 per cent of the unmet need for HIV treatment.

5. Halve tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2015

33. Tuberculosis remains the leading cause of death among people living with HIV, although the goal of halving tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2015 appears to be within reach. Since 2004, the annual number of tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV has declined by 36 per cent, with reductions of more than 50 per cent in 17 of 41 countries with a high HIV/tuberculosis burden. WHO estimates that the scale-up of collaborative HIV/tuberculosis activities prevented 1.3 million people from dying between 2005 and 2012. As in other aspects of the response, progress in reducing tuberculosis-related deaths among people living with HIV varies substantially, with 15 high-burden countries reporting a drop in such deaths of less than 25 per cent.

34. Antiretroviral therapy reduces by 65 per cent the risk that a person living with HIV will develop tuberculosis. However, HIV treatment coverage is lower among individuals co-infected with HIV and tuberculosis than among other people living with HIV. Among 41 priority countries, only 4 (Brazil, Kenya, Malawi and Ukraine) provided HIV treatment to at least 50 per cent of incident HIV and tuberculosis cases. Diagnosis of co-infection remains a major impediment to further progress, with only 46 per cent of notified tuberculosis cases tested for HIV in 2012. The cost of treatment, particularly for extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, is increasingly posing a barrier in some countries, underscoring the need for countries to maximize the use of TRIPS flexibilities to ensure access to affordable treatments.

6. Close the AIDS resource gap

35. Total resources available for HIV-related activities rose in 2012, reaching an estimated $18.9 billion, which represents a 10 per cent increase over amounts mobilized in 2011. However, the world is not on track to generate at least $22 billion to $24 billion in resources by 2015. It is estimated that the implementation of the 2013 WHO guidelines will require an additional 5 to 10 per cent in resources, over and above resource needs previously projected for 2015 and beyond.

36. As in other aspects of the response, the mobilization of sufficient financial resources needs to reflect a shared responsibility for efforts to address the epidemic. In 2012, for the second year in a row, domestic sources accounted for a majority of HIV funding, contributing 53 per cent of expenditure. Among 43 low- and middle-income countries that reported spending data in 2012, more than two thirds reported an increase in domestic resources, with Chad, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan and Sierra Leone more than doubling domestic spending.

37. Many countries, especially those with limited capacity to increase domestic spending, will remain dependent on international actors to help to finance the response. In 2012, international HIV assistance rose by 8 per cent, returning international assistance to the funding peak achieved in 2009. Most of international HIV assistance (67 per cent) flowed through bilateral channels in 2012, with multilateral platforms accounting for 28 per cent of international spending. Through the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the United States remains the largest provider of HIV assistance. In December 2013, international donors pledged $12 billion to the Global Fund over three years, a 30 per cent increase over the previous three-year replenishment.

38. At the same time that countries pursue every means available to mobilize needed resources, efforts should be redoubled to ensure that available funding is invested smartly. With assistance from international partners, at least 30 countries have either developed, or made plans to develop, HIV investment cases. Development of an investment case enables countries to improve the strategic targeting of programmes, adapt service approaches to improve efficiency and explore innovative strategies for mobilizing new resources. Nigeria, for example, is taking steps to improve the strategic focus of programmes after determining that 12 states and the Federal Capital Territory account for 70 per cent of all new HIV infections, while Myanmar has embarked on a national effort to scale up programming for key populations. Several countries are studying various options to mobilize sustainable financing, such as national HIV trust funds, mandatory

earmarks in ministry budgets and new tax levies on telecommunications and airline tickets. Anticipating diminished access to international assistance, some middle-income countries, including Belarus, Jamaica, Thailand and Ukraine, have committed to assume future costs associated with a scaled-up response. By investing $1.1 billion in a refocused response, Kenya projects that it will prevent 1.15 million new HIV infections and 760,000 AIDS-related deaths and offset more than half of such investments through savings in treatment costs and improvements in labour productivity.

39. To finance the long-term effort that will be required, principles of global solidarity and shared responsibility will need to drive the response. While maintaining robust international commitment, new sources of financing that extend beyond official development assistance channels will be needed. Many countries are already advancing towards this aim, but international mechanisms to support innovation at the regional and country levels will be required to maximize the flexibility of national decision-makers to implement new, self-sustaining financing options.

7. Eliminate gender inequalities and gender-based abuse and violence and increase the capacity of women and girls to protect themselves from HIV

40. The epidemic's disproportionate impact on women and girls manifests itself in many ways. In settings with high HIV prevalence, young women aged 15 to 24 experience tuberculosis rates 1.5 to 2 times higher than men in the same age group. Women living with HIV confront a heightened risk of cervical cancer, barriers to accessing essential health-care and support services and impediments to access to justice. Unequal gender norms diminish women's ability to negotiate condom use while also disadvantaging men, who engage in higher levels of risk behaviour than women. In many cases, a discriminatory legal and policy environment further exacerbates women's already substantial vulnerability and risk.

41. Gender-based violence is both a cause and consequence of HIV infection. According to data from nearly 50 countries, between 9 and 60 per cent of women aged 15 to 59 report having experienced violence at the hands of an intimate partner in the past 12 months. Two recent studies in Uganda and South Africa found that women who had experienced intimate partner violence were 50 per cent more likely to be living with HIV than women who had not experienced violence. Studies have linked sexual abuse during childhood with increased risk-taking later in life. Among women living with HIV, disclosure of their HIV status may also subject them to the risk of gender-based violence. Intensified national action to protect women and girls from sexual and other forms of gender-based violence is an urgent necessity.

42. Consistent with the emphasis on women's health and rights in the Five-Year Action Agenda of the Secretary-General and the commitments set forth in the 2011 Political Declaration, national HIV responses must be grounded in a commitment to gender equality. Fewer than half of countries have scaled up national funding for male engagement to promote gender equality or for national-level integration of sexual and reproductive health-care and HIV services or have provisions in the national strategic plan to allocate funding for women's community organizations.

8. Eliminate HIV-related stigma, discrimination, punitive laws and practices

43. Stigma and discrimination continue to undermine effective AIDS responses. Surveys conducted in 35 countries through the People Living with HIV Stigma Index indicate that discriminatory behaviour towards people living with HIV remains common. In eight countries, at least one in five people living with HIV reported having been denied health or dental care, with at least one in six people in five countries having been refused employment.

44. In the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS, Member States reiterated their commitment to "strengthen national policies and legislation to address [HIV-related] stigma and discrimination". In 2012, 61 per cent of countries reported the existence of anti-discrimination laws that protect people living with HIV. However, in 17 out of 23 countries where surveys were conducted between 2008 and 2013, less than 30 per cent of people who had experienced HIV-related discrimination reported having sought legal redress. The share of countries with HIV-related legal services rose from 45 per cent in 2008 to 55 per cent in 2012 — important progress but well shy of ensuring that all people living with HIV are able to defend their rights.

45. Similarly, punitive laws and practices undermine efforts to bring HIV treatment to all who need it. As at 2013, 63 countries had HIV-specific provisions that allowed for the prosecution of HIV non-disclosure, exposure and/or transmission. The provisions of those laws are often contrary to sound medical evidence and can create a climate of fear and blame that discourages the uptake of HIV testing and treatment. In recent years, several countries, including Congo, Guinea, Guyana, Fiji, Senegal, Togo and Switzerland, have either repealed or rejected such laws or taken steps to restrict their breadth solely to cases of intentional transmission.

46. Effective action to address the HIV-related needs of key populations continues to be undermined by punitive legal frameworks. Sixty per cent of national Governments and non-governmental survey respondents in 70 per cent of countries report the existence of laws, regulations or policies that present obstacles to effective HIV prevention, treatment, care and support for key populations and vulnerable groups. Most countries have laws that criminalize some aspect of sex work and a number of countries are reportedly considering laws that criminalize the purchase of consensual sex between adults. People who use drugs are commonly exposed to punitive legal approaches, including through compulsory drug detention centres where living conditions are considered inhumane and degrading by the Special Rapporteur on torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

47. Even as a growing number of countries are moving towards greater recognition of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, new punitive laws have emerged in some regions, further criminalizing such populations and/or limiting their freedom of association and expression. Such laws are incompatible with human rights standards and with an effective HIV response, since people who are criminalized are unlikely to seek essential prevention and treatment services. Moreover, as recent experience shows, such laws also invite potential violence and discrimination against members of those communities.

48. In line with commitments made in the 2011 Political Declaration, countries should immediately take steps to review their legal and policy frameworks in order to bring them into line with human rights obligations. Countries should ensure that those living with HIV and most vulnerable to it are free of criminal sanctions and are able to access the information and tools required to protect themselves and others from infection. People living with HIV and members of key populations and vulnerable groups should have meaningful access to legal services and benefit from programmes to address discrimination.

9. Eliminate HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence

49. There is a decisive movement away from discriminatory restrictions on the entry, stay and residence of people living with HIV. Since 2010, 12 countries, territories or areas have eliminated such restrictions. Most recently, in 2013, Mongolia and Uzbekistan removed their respective restrictions on entry, stay and residence and Andorra and Slovakia reported that restrictions were no longer in force. In 2014, Tajikistan also removed its HIV-related restrictions on entry, stay and residence.

50. However, 40 countries, territories and areas continue to have such restrictions in place, highlighting the need for further action to ensure worldwide elimination of these laws, regulations and policies, including in countries that are important destinations for millions of migrant workers.

51. In addition to reflecting and reinforcing stigmatizing attitudes towards people living with HIV, restrictive laws also inflict considerable harm on individuals and households and undermine an effective, evidence-based response to HIV. Migrants exposed to such laws are frequently tested for HIV without their knowledge or consent, provided little if any counselling and given no access to follow-up medical care if HIV-positive. Such HIV-related restrictions also undermine businesses, which depend on the ability to recruit and deploy employees as needed in order to succeed in a globalized, highly competitive world.

10. Strengthen HIV integration

52. Sustaining the HIV response demands a closer integration of HIV into other health and development efforts. Within the health sector, HIV services need to be linked with other services, while steps are needed to ensure that non-health sectors are HIV-sensitive. More than 90 per cent of countries indicate that integration of HIV into other systems is a national priority. Effective integration requires action with respect to joint planning, policy guidance, programme implementation, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation.

53. Forty-five per cent of countries that undertook midterm reviews of progress towards the 2015 targets indicate that HIV has been aligned with planning for other diseases or integrated into national health and development plans. Countries have taken various routes, including linking HIV with broader health planning or integrating HIV services into national health insurance schemes.

54. At the level of service provision, HIV integration is increasingly common. Fifty-three per cent of countries have taken active steps towards fully integrating HIV/tuberculosis services or strengthening joint service provision. Seventy per cent of countries report having integrated HIV testing, counselling and services into

antenatal care and maternal and child health-care services. Two thirds of countries have integrated HIV into sexual and reproductive health-care services, 23 per cent report having linked HIV services with services for chronic non-communicable diseases, and 55 per cent have integrated HIV testing and counselling into general outpatient care.

55. Although important gains have been made in taking HIV out of isolation, countries are at different stages with respect to integrating HIV into the broader health sector and other development sectors. Given the broad diversity of national epidemics, circumstances and needs, what works in one country with respect to integration of planning and services will not necessarily work in others. International donors need to ensure that their approaches do not inhibit effective integration and alignment, while countries should work to adapt and strengthen governance structures to support integration. Moving forward, particular emphasis is needed to increase HIV-sensitive social protection schemes. Further action is also needed to ensure that integrated services are acceptable and accessible to key populations, including steps to address stigmatizing or judgmental attitudes among some health-care providers.

IV. Using the AIDS response to catalyse health, equity and human rights

56. Progress over the past decade, combined with important advances in scientific research, has increased confidence in the feasibility of eventually ending the AIDS epidemic. However, realizing this will depend on follow-through after the expiration of the 2015 targets. The history of global health and development is replete with examples of disease-specific efforts that generated substantial progress only to falter at the last mile. Having witnessed historic reductions in new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, the global community now has the moral imperative to seize this opportunity for ending AIDS.

57. As the deadline for the 2015 targets approaches, work has intensified to conceptualize a global development agenda beyond 2015. The post-2015 framework must ensure the continuation, strengthening and sharpening of the Millennium Development Goals.

Learning from the AIDS response for sustainable development

58. Much of what has been learned from the AIDS response can help to strengthen broader development efforts. The response's emphasis on accountability, reflected through a series of time-bound targets endorsed by countries and regular reporting on results, has influenced the broader development field, which has taken on board the importance of target-setting, measurement, disaggregation, transparency and the participation of affected communities in the response. The reliance on evidence and data, including information supplied by communities themselves, has enhanced the strategic focus of the HIV response, contributed to rapid problem-solving and helped advocates to make the case for political and financial investments in HIV programmes.

59. More than any other global health movement, the AIDS response has been grounded in advocacy by individuals directly affected by the health condition.

Activism has given voice to people, including those who are poor and marginalized, and forced those with power to take notice and to respond. This activism has also helped to create extensive networks of people living with HIV, who provide mutual support, combat stigma and discrimination, and deliver essential services. HIV provides useful lessons for how people-centred approaches can strengthen a broad array of global health and development initiatives.

60. The AIDS response has demonstrated both the feasibility and the extraordinary benefits of addressing a chronic health condition in an evidence-driven, coordinated manner. HIV has galvanized a rethinking of health systems, integrating community workers into health programmes and generating innovative models of service delivery. These lessons have value for other health and development challenges for which existing systems, as they have previously evolved, have proved inadequate to the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

61. The AIDS response vividly illustrates the vital role of innovation in solving difficult problems and addressing complex challenges. After the slow scale-up of services to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission in the aftermath of definitive research findings, health systems and local programmes began to innovate, identifying models and approaches to overcome bottlenecks and expedite service expansion, including attention to scale-up of antiretroviral treatment for women. The AIDS response has increased the momentum towards new ways of thinking about intellectual property rules and catalysed an array of innovative funding mechanisms, including the Global Fund and the International Drug Purchase Facility, UNITAID.

62. The AIDS response has helped the broader development field to recognize the critical importance of affected populations and communities as partners and change agents. Indeed, HIV funding has supported the development of robust civil society institutions in communities throughout the world, as well as such institutional partnership models as the country coordinating mechanisms of the Global Fund. HIV has attracted the extensive engagement of diverse non-State actors, including faith-based communities and private businesses.

63. Experience with HIV has also emphatically underscored the essential importance of grounding health and development efforts in human rights principles. Perhaps more than any other issue of our time, HIV has highlighted the pernicious health effects of gender inequalities and social and legal marginalization. The insistence on an approach that leaves no one behind is a powerful demonstration of advancing progress towards multiple health and development aims.

64. HIV has also demonstrated the critical importance of strong political leadership and commitment to tackle complex, multidimensional challenges. In particular, HIV vividly illustrates what can be achieved through sustained international solidarity and shared responsibility.

Positioning AIDS in the post-2015 world

65. One of the many virtues of the Millennium Development Goals was their recognition of the central role of health in efforts to improve human well-being. According to a panel of experts convened by *The Lancet* to examine the place of HIV and other health issues in the post-2015 development agenda, improvements in life expectancy account for 24 per cent of the growth in income in low- and middle-

income countries from 2000 to 2011. These computations strikingly illuminate what the HIV field has long understood, namely, that societies cannot optimally grow, prosper and become more just without a foundation of good health and well-being that is widely shared.

66. By extension, HIV has highlighted the degree to which health status is powerfully affected by poverty, economic and social inequalities, discrimination and marginalization. In its adoption in 2013 of a resolution recognizing UNAIDS as a model for strategic coherence, coordination, results-based focus and country-level impact (resolution 2013/11), the Economic and Social Council emphasized the importance of ensuring that responding to AIDS remains a priority in the post-2015 development agenda.

67. To effectively position the HIV response and other health and development actors to achieve its aims in the post-2015 world, steps are needed to strengthen the health and development architecture. The HIV response should leverage and accelerate the growing push to achieve universal access to high-quality, accessible and affordable health care. Links between health initiatives and broader development efforts need to be reflected more fully across the breadth of global health and development practice. Focused efforts should:

- Bring essential health care and social services closer to the communities that need them through accelerated decentralization and greater attention to equity issues
- Ground health and development efforts in a codified, human rights-based approach
- Promote service integration and institutional streamlining
- Ensure data systems that provide ongoing, disaggregated, relevant and timely feedback and strategic information
- Strengthen national budgetary and health systems, with a particular emphasis on preparing them to look beyond short-term goals to achieve durable, longer-lasting improvements in health status
- Support and leverage non-State actors, including those most affected, to engage more fully and effectively in the response.

68. While continued efforts will be needed to integrate the HIV response into the broader health and development architecture, the post-2015 development agenda must recognize both the singular challenge that AIDS poses and the fact that the vision of ending AIDS is achievable. The post-2015 agenda needs to prioritize the target of ending AIDS, not only to avert profound human suffering but also as a catalyst towards a fairer, healthier and more just world.

V. Recommendations

69. Emerging opportunities, persistent challenges and the approaching deadline for the Millennium Development Goals and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS require joint action by countries, civil society, international donors, the United Nations system and other key partners to implement the following recommendations:

- **Expedite progress towards the 2015 targets and elimination commitments**. With the deadline fast approaching, concerted efforts are needed to expedite progress towards the targets to which the global community has committed. In particular, services should focus on geographic settings and populations where HIV prevalence and incidence are highest and where unmet need for critical services is most acute. Countries should actively encourage and incentivize innovation and undertake intensive efforts to strengthen health and community systems.

- **Close gaps in access to services**. Priority attention is required to ensure that all individuals, populations and communities have equitable and non-discriminatory access to HIV services. Countries should monitor service coverage for key populations, including developing size estimates and monitoring and evaluation metrics, and use the data generated from those systems to close access gaps. To prevent AIDS-related deaths among adolescents, critical focus is needed to ensure the availability and effective promotion of service options that welcome young people. Partners in the response must immediately take steps to increase capacity for early infant diagnosis, the testing of older children and linkage to the delivery of child-appropriate treatment and care. Countries must prioritize steps to prevent gender-based violence and remove other legal, social and economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women and girls and diminish their meaningful access to lifesaving prevention, treatment and care services.

- **Replace punitive approaches with protective ones**. Countries should take immediate steps to end punitive laws and law enforcement that act as barriers to health and HIV services and replace them with protective laws against discrimination, violence, hate crimes and mandatory testing and treatment. This reflects the overwhelming evidence that punitive approaches have no public health basis, violate fundamental human rights and undermine efforts to respond effectively to HIV. An effective HIV response is one of inclusion and participation, strong community support, the free dissemination of knowledge and awareness, and outreach to and protection of the most marginalized.

- **Develop new, ambitious targets to end the AIDS epidemic**. The HIV response needs to develop new targets to drive progress, unite diverse stakeholders and promote accountability and transparency. Recognizing dramatic changes in the evidence base for HIV treatment since the 2011 Political Declaration, as reflected in the 2013 WHO *Consolidated guidelines on the use of antiretroviral drugs for treating and preventing HIV infection*, UNAIDS has joined with diverse partners and stakeholders to launch a process to develop new HIV targets for 2020 and 2030. Key indicators to measure progress beyond 2015 should include HIV incidence, coverage of antiretroviral therapy, the elimination of stigma and other metrics of social determinants for the spread of HIV. Countries are encouraged not only to develop new, numerical targets for scale-up, but also to develop specific targets for populations that are not benefiting equally from scientific and programmatic advances. In addition, specific targets and monitoring mechanisms are needed to assess issues of quality, including effective linkage to, and retention in, key services. I recommend that the General Assembly consider a high-level meeting in 2016, in line with the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board recommendation of December 2013, to reaffirm and renew political

commitments and to ensure accountability towards the achievement of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in the post-2015 era.

- **Create national investment cases**. Countries and international stakeholders should prioritize planning for the sustainability of national responses. All countries are encouraged to increase the impact of HIV investments and ensure robust value for money. Many are not investing domestic resources consistent with their national wealth and epidemic burden. Specific attention is therefore needed to develop strategies and mechanisms that generate new domestic resources for the long term. National investment cases can utilize innovative resource mobilization mechanisms such as new tax levies, national trust funds and mandatory budget earmarks. Countries can use their HIV investment case to identify improved delivery mechanisms, savings on procurement and other strategies to lower costs. While countries increase their domestic resources for HIV, international solidarity will remain vital. Countries with limited fiscal space will continue to need access to international HIV and health assistance. In particular, long-term financing continues to depend on the strength, robustness and flexibility of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

- **Integrate the HIV response**. Ending AIDS should be a development priority in the post-2015 agenda and the lessons that the AIDS response brings to solving other complex development issues in future years should be recognized and acted upon. Ending AIDS will help to catalyse broad-based efforts to deliver a global social justice agenda beyond 2015 and will be an example of an approach where no one is left behind and where all people are united in a common commitment to human rights, gender equality, inclusive governance and social inclusion. Efforts should therefore be made to integrate HIV into broader health and development efforts, to strengthen health and community systems and to dismantle duplicative or parallel systems for planning and programme implementation. Young people and affected communities must be empowered to drive this change.

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Letter dated 1 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a Co-Chairs' statement from the high-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform held in New York on 4 November 2013, which was signed on 19 March 2014 by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa, Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, and myself (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have this statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 33 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) František **Ružička**
Ambassador
Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

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Annex to the letter dated 1 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

High-level meeting of the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform: strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform

Co-Chairs' statement

In August 2013, the second report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform was released. For the report to have its intended impact, efforts are needed to collectively reflect on the way ahead regarding the implementation of its key messages. Against this background, on 4 November 2013, the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform held a high-level meeting to launch the second report of the Secretary-General and to discuss the way forward. The meeting was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends, the Permanent Representatives of the Slovak Republic and the Republic of South Africa. The meeting was opened by Ambassador František Ružička, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations. The opening was followed by keynote speeches by Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations; Mr. Noel Sinclair, Deputy Chef de Cabinet to the President of the General Assembly; and Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations, and Ambassador Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the United Nations, also delivered key messages on the Secretary-General's report. The meeting was attended by over 120 representatives of 80 Member States.

The inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force[1] also participated in the meeting. The joint Chairs of the Task Force at the principals level, Mr. Dmitri Titov, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and Mr. Jordan Ryan, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, United Nations Development Programme, provided their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities in implementing the report. Members of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, also made statements recalling the linkages between security sector reform and related areas such as small arms and light weapons, anti-corruption, and countering transnational threats. Also represented was the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The keynote speakers all recognized the significant achievements of the United Nations in strengthening its comprehensive support to security sector reform. The Deputy Secretary-General noted that, over the past years, security sector reform has moved from being a little known concept within the United Nations to becoming a core element of the Organization's approach to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and

[1] The inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force is composed of 14 United Nations departments, offices, agencies, funds and programmes that are engaged in support for security sector reform. See http://unssr.unlb.org/TaskForceMembers.aspx.

development. He highlighted that the future of the United Nations in security sector reform rests on the vision and support of Member States. The President of the General Assembly noted that the relevance and applicability of the report is supported by empirical evidence on the ground. Moreover, he underlined that security sector reform is an important vehicle towards supporting some of the key principles in the Charter of the United Nations such as social progress and better standards of living for the people. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic observed that the success of the United Nations is visible in the growing demand for United Nations assistance to security sector reform efforts. Moreover, he called for measures to ensure that the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, and its secretariat, the Security Sector Reform Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, have the appropriate capabilities and resources for the challenging work ahead.

The Secretary-General's report is recognized to be a direct outcome of a Member State's initiative. Nigeria in its presidential statement of October 2011 (S/PRST/2011/19) had requested "an assessment of the United Nations support for Security Sector Reform". Numerous Member States took the floor to commend the report and to provide insights on important considerations for moving forward. This Co-Chairs' statement summarizes the main discussions and sets out priorities identified. In particular, six key areas for enhancing support were acknowledged as being of crucial importance in implementing the second report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform.

The six key areas identified are detailed below:

- Security sector reform and peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. The challenges, opportunities and benefits of security sector reform across peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development need to be fully understood and reflected in United Nations support to security sector reform.

- The principle of national ownership. While challenges persist, particularly in fragile contexts, there is a growing body of experience and knowledge among Member States on implementing nationally owned security sector reform. The United Nations should continue to gather best practices and lessons learned.

- Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. Existing engagement with the African Union should be deepened; at the same time partnerships should be extended beyond Africa.

- Security sector reform expertise and knowledge. The United Nations role in enabling the exchange of experience and knowledge, including South-South exchange, should be strengthened.

- Monitoring and evaluation of security sector reform. The United Nations should strengthen its role in monitoring and evaluation and should develop national capacity for monitoring and evaluation as an important element of national ownership.

- United Nations capacity to deliver. Security sector mandates in the field need to be adequately resourced; the mandate and resources of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its secretariat should be reinforced to meet demand.

Security sector reform and peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. The challenges, opportunities and benefits of security sector reform across peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development need to be fully understood and reflected in United Nations support to security sector reform.

The Secretary-General's report on security sector reform acknowledges that security sector reform has become a central component of the United Nations peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development agendas. Member States recognized that this reflects a significant cultural shift for the Organization which should be commended. However, there is a need to now focus on attaining the full potential of security sector reform across these contexts. In the area of peacekeeping, strengthening security sector reform requires an enhanced focus on support to the delivery of basic security as a means to strengthen confidence-building. Security sector reform in peacebuilding contexts also requires enhanced efforts to support inclusive national dialogue in view of strengthening the principles of democratic governance. The need to reinforce the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding remains an important challenge. Finally, in the context of development, there is an increasing understanding that security sector reform may depend on the ability to look at security through a development lens, as well as through a broader human rights lens. For instance, the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda recognizes the need to ensure that the upcoming development agenda reflects peace, security and the rule of law as critical components of the next Millennium Development Goals. Participants called for the adoption of an explicit target of reducing armed violence in the post-2015 development framework. Ultimately, the United Nations support to security sector reform across these contexts requires reflection on how to balance the need for long-term institutional reforms with the need for basic and immediate service delivery. This requires linking support to other related initiatives, such as reduction of armed violence or protection of human rights. It moreover requires a strong focus on community-based approaches and dialogue, for instance, strengthening the relationship between the security sector and communities, supporting the building of partnerships with women and youth groups among others, and supporting engagement at the local level. The United Nations is well placed to provide such holistic support to Member States across the peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development contexts because United Nations actors engaged in security sector reform cover the full spectrum. Member States underlined that security sector reform demands the combined effort of all actors across the United Nations, which points to the important role of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force. Numerous opportunities were raised to capitalize on entry points provided by Task Force members, such as considering linking security sector reform to the work of the Office for Disarmament Affairs on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty or to the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in countering narcotics and fighting corruption. In moving the United Nations comprehensive approach to security sector reform forward, there were also calls for enhanced cooperation across Task Force members, but also beyond, such as with the World Bank and other highly relevant institutions.

The principle of national ownership. While challenges persist, particularly in fragile contexts, there is a growing body of experience and knowledge among Member States on implementing nationally owned security sector reform. The United Nations should continue to gather best practices and lessons learned.

In line with the Secretary-General's report, the most fundamental principle of United Nations support to security sector reform is that of national ownership. Member States widely commended the United Nations for seeking to operationalize the principle of national ownership, notably through the development of the United Nations integrated technical guidance note on national ownership of security sector reform. It was underlined that a security sector that prioritizes service delivery for the people will increase the legitimacy of the State and enable political stability. National ownership should be supported through an enhanced focus on building capacity and institutional frameworks for the security sector that addresses immediate security needs. At the same time, there is a need for awareness of the existence of underlying tensions between national ownership and international support. A prime example was recognized to be that of the coordination of security sector reform efforts. There were calls among Member States for the United Nations to take up a stronger coordination role to address the often perceived lack of coherence — and at times even duplication — of international support that is prevalent across all intervention contexts. The United Nations is considered the appropriate platform for supporting international coordination due to its legitimacy and strategic role. However, there is a need to carefully balance the potential coordination role of the United Nations with national ownership by ensuring that international support is made on the basis of clearly defined national priorities. Member States shared their experiences in leading security sector reform processes that are nationally led but conducted in cooperation with international actors. It was recognized that there is a need to draw lessons from some of these successful experiences. The potential tensions between national ownership and international support were also considered to be particularly challenging in fragile contexts which are characterized by the inability of the State to ensure the delivery of basic security. Member States requested further reflection in regard to support to national ownership in these fragile contexts.

Partnerships with regional and subregional organizations. Existing engagement with the African Union should be deepened; at the same time partnerships should be extended beyond Africa.

The Secretary-General in his report calls on the United Nations to support regional and subregional organizations in developing security sector reform frameworks that build on regional perspectives. Member States recognized that the viability, legitimacy and sustainability of the United Nations approach to security sector reform depend on the extent to which it is informed by and responsive to various regional frameworks. It was underlined that such frameworks should include both policies and implementing mechanisms. In this context, the long-term partnership of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations with the African Union, which has resulted in the adoption of a continental policy for security sector reform, was commended. More efforts, however, are required to deepen such engagement through support to implementation mechanisms. At the same time, other regions should be encouraged to also develop such frameworks in order to lend a truly

global character to the work of the United Nations in this critical area. Member States called for the United Nations to support more efforts to engage with organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States, the Organization of American States, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). It was noted that there is a current window of opportunity to engage with OSCE. The upcoming Swiss Chairmanship of OSCE has made strengthening security sector governance within OSCE one of the 10 priorities of its Chairmanship. Given the current reflections within OSCE, the view was raised that the time is ripe to think about revitalizing United Nations collaboration with OSCE as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter in order to build on the converging interests on both sides. This could lead to an exchange of lessons learned and best practices on security sector reform support, as well as efforts towards strengthening the coherence of international support. Thus, there were calls for enhanced efforts to engage with OSCE, as well as other regional and subregional organizations, in order to support partnerships that contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of security sector reform efforts on the ground.

Security sector reform expertise and knowledge. The United Nations role in enabling the exchange of experience and knowledge, including South-South exchange, should be strengthened.

The Secretary-General in his report recognizes that Member States possess rich experiences in security sector reform which should be shared. There are a range of countries within the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform and beyond which have led their own national security sector reform processes and have significant experience to share. For instance, South Africa raised its experience in supporting an inclusive security sector reform process which among other things was anchored in the participation of women. Other Member States highlighted their experiences in supporting holistic approaches to security sector reform based on the principles of national ownership and democratic governance. It was emphasized that the United Nations needs to encourage ways to capture this knowledge and to ensure that it is made available. This requires broadening the pool of civilian experts, and exploiting the capacities that exist at both the regional and subregional levels. Member States should support specialized civilian capacities such as the United Nations security sector reform roster. At the same time, the Task Force needs to ensure that the necessary training is provided to meet the growing demand for expertise. The United Nations should also further identify innovative ways to leverage South-South cooperation into the discourse on security sector reform.

Monitoring and evaluation of security sector reform. The United Nations should strengthen its role in monitoring and evaluation and should develop national capacity for monitoring and evaluation as an important element of national ownership.

The Secretary-General in his report calls on the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force to enhance its role in monitoring and evaluating security sector reform support. It was recognized that it is the Organization's duty to ensure that its interventions are reaching their full potential and are having a meaningful impact on people's lives. Ultimately, whether citizens feel safe and have confidence in the security sector is considered to be the ultimate measure of success. Monitoring and

evaluation is an important tool for ensuring that this key objective is being met. It also enables identifying changing needs and supporting necessary adjustments within long-term support to security sector reform processes. Member States underlined that the Task Force has an important role in ensuring that United Nations delivery on the ground is enhanced, for instance, through reviewing progress and ensuring an appropriate focus on respect for the core principles of security sector reform. This will require being innovative in finding ways to move beyond the focus on measuring quantitative elements of security sector reform support to measuring qualitative aspects which are often less visible but more important in indicating changes in people's lives.

United Nations capacity to deliver. Security sector mandates in the field need to be adequately resourced; the mandate and resources of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force and its secretariat should be reinforced to meet demand.

Member States widely commended the impressive work and significant achievements of the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force. There was a general consensus that the Task Force has played a highly important role in strengthening the United Nations comprehensive support to security sector reform. The Task Force has enhanced United Nations coherence in security sector reform support by representing a "single door" that Member States and United Nations field components can knock on to seek policy advice and technical guidance. In addition to the numerous tasks outlined in the Secretary-General's report, there is a need for the Task Force to enhance the coherent delivery of support on the ground. This includes, for instance, strengthening the United Nations role in the coordination of assistance on the ground, support to joint resource mobilization strategies, or strengthening engagement with other United Nations task forces such as the Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking. This entails reflection on how best to use the existing task force mechanism to reach some of the next goals outlined in the report. At the same time, there is a dire need to match expectations and mandates with resources. It was recognized that a number of the priorities listed essentially depend on the ability of the Task Force and its secretariat to undertake them. However, this requires ensuring that the Task Force, and in particular its secretariat, have the necessary resources to take on their important roles based on a more permanent and predictable approach to funding.

The way forward

General consensus was reached that the Group of Friends of Security Sector Reform has played an important role in supporting the strengthening of the United Nations comprehensive approach to security sector reform by providing a platform for Member States to share experience, stimulate discussion and build consensus around the agenda. While significant achievements have been consolidated by the inter-agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, it was recognized that there will still be much work to be done in taking forward the recommendations in the second report of the Secretary-General on security sector reform. Reviewing progress and ensuring continued feedback to Member States on the implementation of these recommendations is of crucial importance and should continue to take place with

the support of the Group of Friends. In this regard, the Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends encourage the current reflections to promote, in cooperation with Security Council members, a discussion on security sector reform within the Security Council next year to further substantiate this dialogue at a higher level.

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Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In May 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/261 on interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). A total of 86 Member States signed on as formal sponsors of this consensus resolution, which for the first time addressed the role of parliaments at the United Nations as a stand-alone item, thus signalling a new beginning to this evolving partnership.

The relationship between the United Nations — the premier multilateral organization — and the IPU — the world organization of parliaments — has been building steadily since the late 1990s. It has been reinforced through major political statements, such as the Millennium Declaration, the United Nations Summit Outcome Documents of 2005 and 2010, the Final Declaration of each of the three World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament, as well as various General Assembly resolutions. As the international community is contending with several complex challenges simultaneously, and with important deadlines in 2015 looming on the horizon, it is more important than ever for IPU and national parliaments at large to be involved in the work of the United Nations.

The present report documents the past two years of interaction between the two organizations and the world of parliaments as a whole. It also identifies ways for the two organizations to better work together within the context of institutional reforms and a changing landscape in all policy areas. The first part of the report highlights the main modalities of interaction, providing concrete examples of the results achieved at the political and operational levels. The annex to the report provides a more detailed list of activities carried out during this period to more clearly illustrate the day-to-day interaction between the two organizations.

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I. Introduction

1. The United Nations is the cornerstone of multilateralism, bringing together Member States to work for the promotion of peace, human rights and development, based on the inherent right of everyone to live a life free of fear and want. With the advent of globalization, growing interdependence among States and, more recently, threats such as climate change, this mission has become more challenging than ever. It is clear today that it is only by involving other actors, in addition to governments proper, that the United Nations can hope to achieve its goals.

2. National parliaments constitute one such actor. They are the primary link between the Governments assembled at the United Nations and the people they are elected to represent on a daily basis with respect to all issues of peace and security, sustainable development, democracy, gender equality and human rights. It is for parliaments to pass the legislation that will give effect to international commitments in each country, or to adopt the national budget that will allow the same commitments to be implemented. It is also the duty of parliaments to hold Governments to account for their pledges to the international community and to their own citizens.

3. With a membership of 164 national parliaments and with institutional ties to all the major regional and geopolitical parliamentary assemblies in the world, IPU is the only parliamentary organization with a global reach. As such, and as a Permanent Observer to the United Nations, it is well positioned to channel the views of parliaments and their members directly into all major United Nations deliberative processes. IPU is also a key vehicle for supporting the implementation of global commitments at the country level both by strengthening the capacities of parliaments to carry out their legislative, oversight and representative roles and by providing them with relevant information about United Nations operations and decision-making processes.

4. As illustrated in this report, IPU mobilizes parliaments at the national level in order to promote greater transparency, accountability and participation at the global level. This goes a long way to establishing a more democratic international order.

II. Political interaction at the Inter-Parliamentary Union between parliaments and the United Nations

5. As in the past, biannual IPU assemblies during this period have continued to provide opportunities for senior United Nations officials to interact with parliamentarians and share their views on virtually all issues on the global agenda, from sustainable development to disarmament, conflict resolution to democratic governance, and human rights to gender equality. The Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, heads of United Nations agencies, Funds and Programmes, and United Nations High Representatives have engaged with parliamentarians through IPU, raising awareness and building political support for major processes under way at the United Nations. This regular interaction between high-level United Nations officials and over 600 parliamentarians at each IPU Assembly also helps the United Nations promote its own positions and initiatives. Examples of high-level United Nations engagement at IPU assemblies include:

- 126th IPU Assembly (April 2012): open debate with the Executive Directors of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 127th IPU Assembly (October 2012): interaction with the Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign
- 128th IPU Assembly (March 2013): keynote addresses by the Associate Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Innovative Financing for Development
- 129th IPU Assembly (October 2013): thematic discussions with the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), the Chair of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Disarmament. Open debates were also held in plenary meeting with both the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

6. Through the adoption of formal resolutions,[1] the IPU assemblies continue to provide the setting for parliamentarians to develop a common position on key issues on the United Nations agenda. They have included global issues, such as nuclear disarmament, the elimination of chemical weapons, and responsibility to protect, as well as specific conflict situations, such as in Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic, (particularly their humanitarian consequences). Development-related resolutions have addressed natural disasters, trade and financing for development, and the rights of children. Another set of resolutions provided further guidance on emerging questions for democracy, such as the role of social media in enhancing citizen engagement and how to strengthen citizenship in ethnically or linguistically diverse societies. A common thread of these texts is that they have drawn on the agreed international framework to identify the specific legislative reforms that parliaments need to undertake. The resolutions of each IPU Assembly have been circulated to the members of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies under the relevant agenda items. The actual political impact of this well-established practice, which among the constellations of Observer entities remains unique to IPU, may well be a matter of further assessment.

7. An important structure specifically designed to enhance the partnership between the United Nations and IPU, to review parliamentary action on implementation of international commitments and to help shape parliamentary input to major United Nations processes is the IPU Standing Committee on United Nations Affairs. The Committee meets regularly in plenary format, bringing together representatives from all IPU member Parliaments. It serves as a platform for interaction between members of parliament and senior United Nations officials and examines implementation of major United Nations commitments. The Committee's

[1] IPU resolutions are available online from www.ipu.org/strct-e/stcnfres.htm.

annual sessions have been devoted to a number of topical issues: how democracy is addressed by the United Nations, the role of parliamentary diplomacy in multilateralism, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, and the status of cooperation between United Nations country teams and parliaments in the elaboration of national development strategies. As an improvement on its working methods, the Committee now meets twice a year during the IPU Assemblies and is equipped with an 18-member Bureau which guides the work of the Committee, establishes its workplan and conducts field missions and other operational activities. I note with satisfaction that the Committee has been retooled and reconfigured to better fulfil its mandate.

8. Work has commenced on preparations for a Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament in 2015, which, as on past occasions (2000, 2005 and 2010) will be organized in close cooperation with the United Nations. It is expected that this fourth conference will conclude with a major Declaration outlining the vision for inter-parliamentary cooperation in the post-2015 era while also providing further guidance on the future relationship between the United Nations, parliaments and IPU.

III. Integrating the concerns of parliaments into major United Nations processes

9. In its resolution 65/123, the General Assembly specifically encouraged the United Nations to engage more systematically with IPU in integrating a parliamentary component of and contribution to major United Nations deliberative processes and the review of international commitments. Partly in response to this, IPU developed a five-year Strategy (2012 to 2017) that specifically includes as an objective developing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and other multilateral institutions. Another objective of the IPU strategy is to build parliamentary support for international development goals. The parliamentary contribution to the post-2015 development agenda includes the following:

(a) A pivotal United Nations process in which IPU has been particularly active during the reporting period is the global consultation for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. IPU spared no effort in ensuring that, unlike the Millennium Development Goals, the future Sustainable Development Goals will receive and reflect parliamentary input and thus be anchored in stronger national ownership. To this end, IPU facilitated a parliamentary round table at the Monrovia meeting of the former High-level Panel of Eminent Persons in January 2013, and contributed to a second parliamentary consultation at the Bali meeting of the High-level Panel later the same year.

(b) Another comprehensive contribution was made at the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito, in March 2013, where the plenary debate was dedicated to the vision of post-2015 development under the theme "From unrelenting growth to purposeful development 'Buen Vivir': New approaches, new solutions". The formal outcome of this debate, known as the Quito Communiqué, focused attention on two key issues: the need for a new economic model of sustainable development directly focused on human well-being, and the need for stronger democratic governance as both a means and an end to sustainable development.

(c) Later in 2013, the joint United Nations-IPU Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations took up these themes again to bring them closer to the attention of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. The Hearing also included a discussion on gender in the Sustainable Development Goals, concluding that a stand-alone goal on gender was necessary in addition to gender mainstreaming. While it is too soon to assess the extent to which this parliamentary perspective has succeeded in informing the final outcome of the Open Working Group, key messages have already been reflected in other United Nations reports, such as the report of the 2013 Dialogue on Harmony with Nature and the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, July 2013).

10. The multi-stakeholder Development Cooperation Forum, where parliamentarians participate alongside government representatives, civil society, local authorities and a number of other development cooperation practitioners, continued to provide an important setting for the perspective of parliaments to be heard at the United Nations. With the agenda for development cooperation now encompassing a large array of "beyond aid" issues, including domestic resources, private flows (including remittance, foreign direct investment (FDI), etc.) as well as several other sources of development finance, parliamentarians are expected to play an even more important role in supporting legal reforms and enhancing accountability across the board. These same issues are at the core of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in which IPU is also engaged as a member of its Steering Committee. The particular modality of the Development Cooperation Forum, in which stakeholder groups participate on equal terms and contribute their thoughts and experiences on the issues, has made a significant difference in helping to shape a new discourse of development cooperation within the Development Cooperation Forum and beyond. This successful practice could be considered in other open United Nations forums, beginning with the new High-level Political Forum on sustainable development, which, inter alia, will serve as a focal point for the implementation and monitoring of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

11. Also pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/123, two additional joint IPU-United Nations annual Parliamentary Hearings were organized during this period.[2] The 2013 Hearing was co-sponsored for the first time by both the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council. Each Hearing brought to New York close to 200 parliamentarians for an interactive exchange with permanent representatives and senior United Nations officials. As mentioned above, the 2013 event was closely linked to the post-2015 process. The 2012 edition of the Hearing, entitled "A road less travelled: Parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peacebuilding", helped to highlight how parliaments can play a role, in partnership with the United Nations, in helping to restore political stability to countries that are prone to or emerging from conflict. For example, in situations of peacebuilding and national reconciliation, while the first interlocutor of the United Nations must necessarily be the Government, its work can also benefit from engagement with parliament. In cases

[2] A complete overview of the joint Parliamentary Hearings can be found online from www.ipu.org/un-e/un-hearings.htm.

where parliamentarians have established close relations with their constituents, parliaments are well equipped to monitor lingering and rising tensions in society before violence even erupts. Moreover, the eruption of violence may be prevented by allowing societal tensions to turn into parliamentary debates.[3] Several recommendations from this meeting are directly relevant to the work of the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and indeed the Peacebuilding Commission, among other United Nations bodies. The summary reports from both Hearings were circulated in the General Assembly and among national parliaments.

12. Significant political endorsements of the role of parliament in advancing major United Nations commitments were imbedded directly into key outcome documents. Paragraphs 42 and 43 of The future we want — the Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development — make it clear that parliaments (legislative bodies) have a key role in promoting sustainable development. Likewise, in paragraph 34 of the Declaration of the September 2012 High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Level, the Heads of State and Government "recognize the essential role of parliaments in the rule of law at the national level, and welcome the interaction among the United Nations, national parliaments and the Inter-Parliamentary Union". The September 2013 outcome document of the Special Event of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda expressly welcomes the contribution of parliaments to that major process.

13. In view of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, which will share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, IPU has worked to bring the voices of parliamentarians and indigenous communities to the process. This work is part of the IPU broader agenda to support the fair representation of minorities in decision-making. It included consultations with parliamentarians at the 128th IPU Assembly and a global parliamentary meeting in Bolivia in April this year. IPU also participated in the session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2013. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 66/296 (modalities resolution), parliamentarians will be included in the multi-stakeholder hearing to be held at the forthcoming session of the Forum in May of this year. Lastly, a Handbook for Parliamentarians on the Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been jointly produced by IPU, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Handbook is expected to be published this year.

14. To help harness political will for a new multilateral trade agreement under the Doha Round, IPU and the European Parliament have pursued their strategy of bringing parliamentarians closer to the negotiating process through the Parliamentary Conference on the World Trade Organization. This involved a number of parliamentary meetings in Geneva and a major gathering at the ninth Ministerial Conference of WTO held in Bali in December 2013. A large parliamentary meeting

[3] More illustrations of how parliaments can play a role in peacebuilding and national reconciliation alongside the United Nations is available from www.ipu.org/splz-e/unga12/summary.pdf.

was also held at WTO in Geneva in November 2012 entitled "Back to Basics: Connecting Politics and Trade", with a hearing for parliamentarians with the WTO Director General.

IV. Parliamentary oversight of international commitments

15. International commitments are of little value unless they are fully implemented at the national level through legislation, budget allocations and parliamentary oversight. Indeed, parliaments have a wide range of tools at their disposal to ensure that national laws, policies, regulations, programmes and budgets reflect the principles and obligations contained in all international agreements.

Parliamentary participation in national reporting exercises

16. In keeping with established practice, IPU continued to link parliaments to the national reporting exercise on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the regular sessions of the Committee on the Convention. IPU alerts concerned parliaments of the report that is to be submitted to the Committee by their Government, invites members of parliament to join their government delegation to the relevant session of the Committee, and subsequently transmits to the parliament, for information and further follow-up, the outcome of the Committee's deliberations. This well-tested practice was the inspiration for Human Rights Council resolution 22/15, in which the Council called for a more in-depth panel discussion on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and its universal periodic review. The recommendations of that panel include: involving parliaments in a comprehensive national consultation process to prepare the national report to the Council; including members of parliament in the official delegations to the Council (in an observer capacity or otherwise), and providing for an official presentation of the universal periodic review recommendations to each concerned parliament. Other recommendations of the panel call for enhancing the capacity of parliaments to contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council, strengthening cooperation between parliaments and national human rights stakeholders, and strengthening cooperation between the Council and IPU. In follow-up to these recommendations, a parliamentary meeting for the Central and Eastern Europe region was held in Bucharest, in February 2014. Other regional meetings are scheduled to take place this year in Morocco (Arab region) and Uruguay (Latin America and the Caribbean region).

17. With respect to implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, IPU was one partner, along with UNDP and the Millennium Campaign, in the organization of regional meetings on Millennium Development Goals acceleration. With a three-year time frame (from the start of this reporting period) in the run-up to 2015, IPU helped to drive home to parliaments the urgent need for policies to more directly target those Millennium Development Goals in which their countries were most lagging behind. One meeting was held in the African region and two more in the Asia-Pacific region. A briefing for parliamentarians on Millennium Development Goal acceleration was also held at the 127th IPU Assembly in October 2012.

18. At the same time, IPU continued to focus attention on the need for parliaments to review their own committee structures in order to assess the usefulness of

forming a specialized Millennium Development Goal committee or caucus to improve oversight of government policy and facilitate internal coordination between portfolio committees. A study conducted by IPU in May/June 2012 of the Millennium Development Goals Committee of the Nigerian Parliament, for example, shows both the inherent risks and potential of such a structure, especially if it is not fully integrated into the budget-making process or the national development planning exercise. In many countries where parliaments lack the capacity to effectively monitor and implement the international development goals, the United Nations country team could help facilitate the involvement of the parliament in national review exercises and generally facilitate information sharing and the provision of targeted technical assistance.

19. In addition to promoting implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as a whole, IPU has also worked in cooperation with United Nations entities to zero in on specific Millennium Development Goals, such as those on women's empowerment (Millennium Development Goal 3), reducing child mortality (Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5), and combating HIV/AIDS (Millennium Development Goal 6). As documented in the annex to the present report, a number of workshops and other events for parliamentarians, in addition to joint publications produced, were held during this period in cooperation with UN-Women, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the World Health Organization (WHO), and UNFPA, among others.[4] Joint action in support of Millennium Development Goal 6, in line with the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, focused in particular on eliminating discriminatory clauses disadvantaging the most-affected populations, which has long been recognized as a key impediment to an effective response to the epidemic.

20. In support of the international commitments on gender equality, many of which have continued to be unrealized since the Fourth World Conference on Women of 1995, IPU continued to hold a day-long parliamentary meeting at the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women in collaboration with UN-Women as a way of keeping those commitments high on the parliamentary agendas. IPU also continues to supply the United Nations with data on women in politics, which is required to track progress on a key indicator of Millennium Development Goal 3 (the percentage of women in parliaments). The same data provides the basis for a regular joint IPU-UN-Women publication, in the form of a global map of Women in Politics, which provides a snapshot of women politicians in each country. The latest edition of the map was launched at the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014.[5]

21. Through IPU Assemblies and the work of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs, parliamentarians were better exposed to major United Nations instruments in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular the new Arms Trade Treaty and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. It was agreed that IPU and the United Nations would engage in identifying modalities to continue this work, including through workshops and more focused sessions at the regional level. A Handbook for Parliamentarians on Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and

[4] A complete list of joint publications is available from www.ipu.org/english/handbks.htm.

[5] The Women in Politics map is available from www.ipu.org/english/surveys.htm#MAP2014.

Disarmament, produced by IPU and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament in 2012, has been translated into several languages, and is a particularly useful tool for mobilizing parliamentary action in this crucial area.

V. Parliaments and the United Nations at the national level

22. In paragraph 11 of its resolution 66/261, the General Assembly specifically "calls upon United Nations country teams to develop a more structured and integrated manner of working with national parliaments, inter alia, by involving parliaments in consultations on national development strategies and on development aid effectiveness". The recommendation was inspired by the earlier findings of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs based on its field missions aimed at examining implementation of One UN reform and system-wide coherence at the national level. The overarching idea was that parliaments can do much to contribute to United Nations processes directly at the country level and in areas extending well beyond development per se to include peacebuilding, humanitarian crises and electoral reforms. In moving towards the post-2015 era, strengthening the links between the United Nations field presence and the national parliaments could go a long way in facilitating implementation of the new Sustainable Development Goals and other commitments.

23. Building on earlier field missions to the United Republic of Tanzania (2008), Viet Nam (2009), Ghana and Sierra Leone (May 2011), in September 2012, the IPU Advisory Group also examined closely the Delivering as One operation in Albania and Montenegro. Based on these visits, which were closely coordinated with United Nations officials on the ground and the national parliament, it emerged that various parts of the United Nations system in the country were involved in facilitating support to the parliament so that it could better work on implementation of global commitments. In Albania, for example, UNDP-parliament interaction supported the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee on Population and Development, the creation of a Child Rights Parliamentarian Caucus, support for the Health Committee and Social Affairs Committee on HIV/AIDS-related issues, support for women members of parliament, capacity-development initiatives with administrative parliamentary structures, preparation for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and advocacy work with the Speaker of Parliament on women's empowerment and the fight against gender-based violence. In addition to the technical assistance provided to parliament in both countries, it was recommended that the United Nations country teams also develop a more structured practice of engaging parliaments in both the elaboration and monitoring of the national development strategies.

24. A second field mission of the Advisory Group was conducted in June 2013 in Côte d'Ivoire. Testing some of the recommendations of the United Nations-IPU Parliamentary Hearing in 2012, the mission sought to enhance interaction between the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire, the United Nations country team and the national parliament in peacebuilding efforts. While recognizing the crucial role parliaments are called upon to play in peacebuilding and national reconciliation, the mission also highlighted the very real need to bolster the capacities of parliament. This should allow the parliament to implement the necessary political, legislative and institutional reforms as the country transitions from conflict to sustainable peace and development. UNDP is already implementing a substantive programme in

support of the parliament in Côte d'Ivoire. IPU, too, has carried out an organizational audit of parliament and will be looking to partner with UNDP in the implementation of its recommendations. In turn, having expressed its keen interest to play an active role in conflict prevention, the National Assembly of Côte d'Ivoire hosted, in October 2013, a regional parliamentary conference on the role of parliament in conflict prevention and management in West Africa. The conference concluded with a series of specific recommendations for parliamentary action with a view to enhancing the rule of law, putting in place human rights legislation in keeping with related international norms, ensuring democratic and peaceful alternation of power, and promoting dialogue and inclusiveness to engage the reforms required by the national reconciliation process.

25. A third mission of the Advisory Group on United Nations Affairs took place in Haiti in February 2014 to examine the overall effectiveness of the United Nations system humanitarian and reconstruction efforts following the 2010 earthquake, as well as how United Nations partners on the ground involve parliament, in their respective roles, in the elaboration and implementation of major national development plans. The findings of the mission were presented to the IPU member Parliaments and will be circulated in the General Assembly.

26. While all these missions demonstrate ever-increasing interaction between United Nations country teams and parliaments at the country level, they also provide evidence of institutional gaps that need to be filled, particularly in terms of working with parliaments not only as the recipients of international assistance, but also as major partners in the design and monitoring of key national strategies.

27. During a review of these issues at the 129th IPU Assembly, in October 2013, the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs drew up a list of specific recommendations in order to promote coherent interaction between parliaments and United Nations country teams. These include: securing a regular flow of information and consultations at the strategy and policy-planning level, and facilitating regular interaction on national development plans and national reviews of major global commitments. The elaboration of guidelines based on good practices from the field is also an area worth exploring.

28. Underlying all these issues is the larger question of capacity-building for parliaments to engage with the United Nations at both the national and global levels and also, and most critically, to effectively fulfil their unique legislative and oversight roles. UNDP implements parliamentary capacity-building programmes in some 70 countries. IPU is working, especially with UNDP, with at least six United Nations country offices, assisting to implement parliamentary technical assistance programming in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea-Bissau, Myanmar, Pakistan and the State of Palestine.

29. Much more needs to be done and more resources for this work will need to be mobilized, working with all development partners in collaboration with national parliaments. With regard to IPU-UNDP collaboration in Myanmar, the new approach is described below.

(a) Recent years have seen more robust efforts by IPU and UNDP to provide assistance to parliaments in a more efficient and effective manner. This new approach has worked well in Myanmar. The two organizations undertook joint

missions throughout 2012, including one in July 2012 to design a long-term programme of broad support to the Union Assembly for 2013-2015.

(b) Pending development and approval of the 2013-2015 programme and the amendment of the UNDP mandate in Myanmar, and in response to the Union Assembly request for immediate support, IPU began providing initial support for the establishment of a Library, Research and Information Service in December 2012. UNDP Myanmar extended valuable administrative support to the IPU project under very challenging circumstances.

(c) The 2013-2015 programme was approved in April 2013 by the parliament and the programme has been included in the UNDP Country Programme Action Plan for 2013-2015. IPU and UNDP have now signed a Letter of Agreement on the implementation of the programme. Specifically, the two organizations will work towards enhancing the capacity of the Union Assembly Secretariat so that it can service the Union Assembly, its committees and members of parliament effectively and in a gender-responsive manner.

(d) From the outset, the IPU project was designed within the framework of the broader 2013-2015 programme and since January 2014, has been fully integrated into it. This new approach has facilitated concrete and valued support to the nascent parliament from an early stage.

(e) Since early in 2012, IPU and UNDP have participated in various coordination initiatives, including donor groups, and have regularly liaised with other organizations planning support for the Union Assembly. This has helped to reduce the scope for duplication and overlap. By the same token, various organizations have been encouraged to work with the Library, Research and Information Service as the depository of all resources/materials being used for parliamentary capacity-development and training activities.

30. Another excellent illustration of how IPU and the United Nations can work together to engage parliaments at the national level in global processes was provided in the second half of 2013 when, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, the Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States and the active support of the Democratic Governance Group in the Bureau for Development Policy of UNDP, focus groups were held with parliamentarians in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Samoa. The focus groups solicited the input of parliamentarians on how their parliaments had managed to mainstream the 2011 Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries, what difficulties they had encountered, and what kind of support they expected from the United Nations system in the field. The main thrust was that the United Nations needs to aid the establishment of strong implementation mechanisms at the national level that include the active participation of parliaments. Specific recommendations included: setting up working groups that collaborate with parliament on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme; establishing a United Nations focal point for the implementation of the Programme that would link up to a corresponding parliamentary focal point; providing assistance to parliaments in order to enhance their capacity to conduct qualitative assessments of expenditures and policies; organizing multi-stakeholder discussions that include members of parliament; and providing the necessary funding and information to parliaments to enable them to fulfil their oversight role. The extent to which these recommendations will be implemented will likely have an

impact on the overall ability of parliaments to contribute to the national midterm reviews scheduled for 2016.

VI. Recommendations

31. Interaction between the United Nations, national parliaments and IPU ranges from the political to the operational and touches on virtually all policy areas. The modalities of the interaction have evolved to include several innovative approaches which could be further expanded. Like the United Nations, IPU is retooling itself to better serve its own members, while also enhancing its capacities to function as a parliamentary interface with the United Nations.

32. **Given the growing number and complexity of issues on the international agenda, as well as the resource constraints that both IPU and the United Nations are facing, greater complementarities and synergies will need to be achieved between the two organizations in order to maximize the overall impact both politically and operationally. The following seven elements are recommended:**

(a) **The experience of the annual Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, as a joint United Nations-IPU event designed to inform major United Nations processes from a parliamentary perspective, could be expanded to other parliamentary meetings convened in conjunction with major United Nations conferences and processes. The outcome of such meetings could serve as a formal parliamentary contribution to the respective United Nations deliberations. This could be the case, for example, of the parliamentary meeting organized on the occasion of the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and other such meetings organized jointly by IPU and the United Nations, which could be included as part of the formal United Nations agenda.**

(b) **Given that the main issues taken up by the United Nations and IPU often intersect, mechanisms could be developed to ensure better coordination between the political agendas of the two organizations. As a first step in this direction, more regular and structured interaction could be established between the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs and the relevant bodies of the United Nations. Closer consultation between the United Nations and IPU could also help to set the agenda of the Committee so that it addresses actionable issues of common interest.**

(c) **Parliaments are essential to ensure the implementation of major international agreements. The United Nations and IPU should therefore work closely to incorporate a clear role for parliaments at the global level and jointly support country-led efforts that need to accompany the post-2015 sustainable development goals.**

(d) **Similarly, acknowledging the positive outcomes of the previous World Conferences of Speakers of Parliament, held at the United Nations ahead of the Millennium Summit and the United Nations Summits in 2005 and 2010, it is proposed that the Fourth World Conference of Speakers of Parliaments be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, as part of the series of high-level meetings in September 2015 devoted to world peace and development.**

(e) As the role of national parliaments is key in translating global commitments into national policies and frameworks, the United Nations and IPU should enhance their joint efforts to further strengthen the capacities of parliaments to perform their legislative, oversight and representative functions. This will also enable parliaments to be more actively involved in national development planning exercises and reviews of global commitments. The United Nations country teams, in particular, should avail themselves more systematically of the unique expertise of IPU and its member Parliaments in strengthening parliamentary institutions, particularly in countries emerging from conflict and/or in transition to democracy.

(f) Building on the experience of the parliamentary involvement in the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, a more robust parliamentary contribution could be brought to the Human Rights Council universal periodic review, as recommended by the May 2013 panel. Indeed, this practice could also usefully be applied to the national reports that will be submitted to other United Nations bodies, such as the new High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

(g) In the light of the growing partnership between the United Nations and IPU, which strives to provide the parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations, the General Assembly may wish to further explore the modalities and benefits of this interaction, and continue to include this subject as a separate item in the agenda of its seventieth session.

Annex

List of joint activities conducted by the United Nations, national parliaments and IPU since April 2012

I. Democracy and human rights

- IPU actively promoted the United Nations-sanctioned International Day of Democracy, on 15 September, by requesting member Parliaments to mark the Day through a special activity or political statement. The main theme of the Day in 2013, agreed in cooperation with IPU, was Strengthening Voices for Democracy. About 30 parliaments took steps each year to help mark the Day. The Director of the Europe Division participated in a session of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs at the 127th IPU Assembly in Quebec, Canada, entitled "Does the United Nations take democracy seriously enough?" The session touched on a number of areas in which the United Nations and IPU work together, in particular the rule of law, integrity of elections and the promotion of greater transparency in the work of parliaments.

- Democracy cannot exist without the rule of law. In conjunction with the September 2012 High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law, a parliamentary meeting was held at the United Nations under the joint sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, IPU and the international Development Law Organization. The meeting served to reflect on the Declaration of the High-level Meeting, particularly as it contained a strong acknowledgement of the role of parliaments in strengthening the rule of law at the national level.

- Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/15 adopted in 2013, IPU co-organized a panel on the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review during the Council's May session. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, IPU is also updating the Human Rights Handbook for Parliamentarians. In the same vein, IPU is finalizing a handbook on migration from a human rights perspective.

- IPU also participated in a panel discussion organized by OHCHR on accountability for implementation of the future post-2015 development agenda from a human rights perspective. The event took place in New York on 22 May 2013. The panel discussed inter alia how international human rights commitments can be translated into enforceable legislation at the national level. Another IPU contribution to United Nations debates on human rights was made at the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held in October 2012 in Geneva.

- Together with the UNDP Democratic Governance Group in the Bureau for Development Policy, IPU worked in the first quarter of 2013 on a survey of parliamentarians on key questions related to governance and sustainable development. UNDP assisted with preparations for a workshop on democratic governance held at the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito, in March 2013. The Group support to IPU included input to an event entitled "Measuring

democratic Governance: The art of the possible" in February 2014. The event was jointly organized by IPU and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), and was sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the United Nations. It provided a direct contribution to the session of the Open Working Group that same week, when governance was on the agenda.

- In April 2012, the first ever Global Parliamentary Report was published as a joint IPU-UNDP endeavour. The report provides an in-depth analysis of the state of the world's parliaments and how they can be strengthened further in order to provide a more solid foundation to democratic practices and principles in their respective countries. In June 2013, in Rabat, IPU and UNDP, together with the Parliament of Morocco, organized a regional workshop on how to strengthen the relationship between parliament and citizens following the political and institutional upheaval of the Arab Spring. The report has seen follow-up action in 14 parliaments and currently exists in eight languages.

- IPU continued to work closely with UNDP country offices, providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes to national parliaments. In the past two years, IPU has signed and/or extended agreements with four UNDP country offices to provide support to parliamentary strengthening projects and has contributed to over 40 activities in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Pakistan, the State of Palestine, Palau and Samoa. This included a joint IPU-UNDP project formulation mission to Myanmar in July 2012, which has since led to a full-scale project of support for the parliament. United Nations Resident Coordinators worked closely with IPU to facilitate parliamentary field missions to Albania, Montenegro, Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti. As part of a working group of parliamentary practitioners, UNDP and IPU began work on a set of Common Principles for Parliamentary Development Practitioners. Once finalized, the principles should serve as a reference for parliamentary development, helping to ensure that s pport to parliaments is sustainable and driven by parliaments' own definition of their development needs.

- The fifth World e-Parliament Conference was held in Rome in September 2012, in cooperation with the United Nations Global Centre for ICT in Parliament, IPU, and the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The conference focused on "open parliament", i.e., how technologies can further support transparency and accountability to citizens. The joint *World Global e-Parliament Report 2012* was also launched at the Conference.

- The rights of indigenous peoples are a significant feature of the democracy and human rights agenda. A Handbook for parliamentarians on *The Rights of Indigenous Peoples* was produced by OHCHR, UNDP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and IPU. The launch of the Handbook is planned for September 2014. IPU provided input to the May 2013 session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, where plans for a parliamentary contribution to this year's World Conference on Indigenous Peoples were outlined. The outcome of the Forum explicitly welcomed such a contribution, including through a multi-stakeholder hearing (indigenous

peoples, civil society and parliaments, among others) to be held in conjunction with the 2014 session of the Forum in May of this year.

II. Gender equality

- The IPU Secretary General met with the new Executive Director of UN-Women, P. Mlambo-Ngcuka, for an exchange of views on future prospects for enhanced cooperation between the two organizations. They discussed, inter alia, the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding.

- IPU and the UN-Women Subregional Office for Central and Southeastern Europe signed a memorandum of understanding in July 2012, aimed at promoting gender equality in Turkey. As part of the agreement, the two organizations worked together on implementing the United Nations joint programme entitled Fostering an Enabling Environment for Gender Equality in Turkey, in particular in terms of lending technical support to the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and its Commission on Equal Opportunities. In this framework, a gender self-assessment was organized in December 2012. The assessment helped the Commission to take stock of its impact on gender-related legislation, appraise the role it was playing in parliament and identify capacity-building needs.

- Senior UN-Women officials engaged with the eighth Meeting of Women Speakers of Parliament, organized by IPU in November 2013 immediately before the joint IPU-United Nations Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations. The meeting looked closely at the gender aspects of the agenda of the Hearing, on the new Sustainable Development Goals, and whether a stand-alone gender goal should be formulated.

- In cooperation with UN-Women, IPU held its annual Parliamentary Meeting at the 2013 and 2014 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, respectively on parliamentary strategies for tackling violence against women and girls, and on Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls. The day-long meetings followed the agenda of the main session of the Commission on the Status of Women so as to provide a direct contribution from the parliamentary community.

- UN-Women and IPU pursued their collaboration in the area of ending violence against women and girls. UN-Women country offices provided inputs and expertise for the organization of the IPU Regional seminar for East and Southern African Parliaments on how to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls through effective enforcement of legislation, held in Dar es Salaam (December 2012), as well as in IPU national parliamentary capacity-building workshops on violence against women, held in Burundi (July 2012), Mali (June 2013) and Sierra Leone (March 2014).

- The map of Women in Politics: 2014 was produced as a joint publication of IPU and UN-Women. It was launched on the occasion of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York in 2014. The data that IPU collects on the number of women in parliaments continue to feed into all United Nations statistical reports on the matter, including those compiled to track progress on Millennium Development Goal 3.

- A report by UN-Women and the Mary Robinson Foundation issued in May 2013 highlighted the IPU model of how to promote the participation of women in its governing structures and policies as a model for the entire United Nations community.[a] UN-Women also recommended that the IPU example should be studied and possibly replicated in the context of climate change and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process.

- IPU regularly submits information to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the level of parliamentary involvement in the reporting process and on the representation of women in parliament in the States parties to the Convention. The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda represented IPU at an event to mark the Committee's thirtieth anniversary. A meeting took place between members of IPU and the Committee in October 2013 in Geneva to increase cooperation. Two members of that Committee participated as resource persons in a Committee training for parliamentarians organized by IPU in October 2013 in Geneva.

- Collaboration continued on the International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics), created in partnership with UNDP, UN-Women, National Democratic Institute, International IDEA and IPU in 2007. The iKNOW Politics website is frequently presented at both United Nations and IPU annual events including the Commission on the Status of Women and biannual IPU Assemblies, to ensure that targeted audiences (elected women, candidates and women's civil society groups) are aware of, and familiar with, the resource.

III. Sustainable development

- The landmark twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development was held in Rio in June 2012. IPU members were invited to participate in the conference as part of their national delegations. IPU also organized a briefing for parliamentarians on the first day of the Conference to take stock of its Outcome Document.

- Following the Conference on Sustainable Development, IPU began to engage the United Nations-led process to help redefine the current development framework in the light of new challenges and based on the experience of the expiring Millennium Development Goals. As a first step, IPU was the main co-organizer of a parliamentary round table for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that met in Monrovia, in January 2013, and where the focus was on democratic governance. A second parliamentary contribution was made to the final consultations of the High-level Panel in Indonesia.

- IPU actively participated in the sessions of the General Assembly Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals, held from September 2013 to February 2014. It included two major contributions to the sessions of the Open Working Group in November 2013 and February 2014 on

[a] The joint report can be found online at www.mrfcj.org/pdf/2013-06-07_The-Full-View.pdf (English only).

macroeconomic issues and governance, respectively. IPU also made a strong conceptual contribution, on the need for a new economic model of sustainable development, to the 2013 Dialogue on Harmony with Nature. That contribution was also highlighted in the final report of the Dialogue.

- The 2013 joint Parliamentary Hearing was held on 14 and 15 November in New York. The event, Rethinking sustainable development: the quest for a transformational global agenda in 2015, was co-organized for the first time with the President of the Economic and Social Council in addition to the President of the General Assembly. It was a major contribution to the post-2015 global consultation that helped to articulate key messages on the economic model of development, democratic governance and gender.

- IPU further discussed possible avenues of cooperation with the Economic and Social Council within the context of that body's ongoing restructuring with stronger multi-stakeholder engagement. Meetings between the IPU Secretary General and the President of the Economic and Social Council took place in New York and Geneva. IPU followed closely the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2013, where it also spoke on issues of gender equality and human rights. F.-X. De Donnea (Member of Parliament from Belgium), joined the panel of a thematic debate on accountability and the new development agenda.

- Following the far-reaching reform of the Economic and Social Council, its President invited the IPU Secretary General to an ambassadorial retreat on 16 and 17 November 2013. The IPU Secretary General delivered a keynote speech at the event, which focused on the accountability role of parliaments to support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

- As the sole parliamentary partner of the Development Cooperation Forum, and as a member of its Advisory Group, IPU made contributions at every meeting of that body held over the current reporting period, including: the Brisbane symposium on development cooperation and sustainable development (June 2012), the main session of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York (July 2012), the Dialogue on gender and development cooperation, held in Vienna (December 2012), the Addis Ababa symposium on the global partnership for development cooperation (June 2013), the Montreux Symposium on the catalytic role of aid (October 2013), and the Berlin Symposium on accountability of development cooperation (March 2014). Represented by close to a dozen parliamentarians at each meeting, IPU helped to bring a critical parliamentary perspective to the conclusions of each of these events.

- Also as a contribution to the Development Cooperation Forum, IPU produced a guidance note on how development partners can work together on a national aid policy as a key enabler of mutual accountability. The note was introduced to the Advisory Group of the Development Cooperation Forum for further consultations. It is hoped that the guidance note will provide a critical new tool for Development Cooperation Forum members as well as stakeholders at the national level to either initiate a new aid policy process or review the existing one. IPU also supported the implementation of the third Development Cooperation Forum global survey on mutual accountability by alerting a

number of parliaments to the process and informing them of how to participate in it.

- IPU represents parliaments on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, supported in part by UNDP, where, inter alia, it is helping to monitor implementation of all aid and development aid effectiveness commitments. IPU took the lead in the organization of a parliamentary meeting at the High-level Meeting of the Global Partnership in April of this year in Mexico City. The meeting was organized with the support of the Congress of Mexico.

- A review of the current memorandum of understanding between IPU and UNDP was conducted in late 2012. Representatives of key UNDP Bureaux met with senior IPU management to review all areas of cooperation. The outcome was overwhelmingly positive but also highlighted the need to fine-tune some of the working modalities and extend cooperation to new sectors. Discussions on a revised memorandum of understanding are ongoing.

- To help mobilize parliamentary support for the Millennium Development Goals in their final years while also channelling grass-roots parliamentary input into the post-2015 development agenda, IPU contributed to regional meetings co-organized by the Millennium Campaign and UNDP in Addis Ababa, for the African region (May 2012), and Dhaka and Manila for the Asia region (second half of 2012). The final Declarations of these events fed into the ongoing global process to redefine the post-2015 development agenda. UNDP at both headquarters and in the field is providing support to IPU in the organization of a meeting for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, which will be held in the Senate of Mexico in May 2014.

- As a contribution to ongoing consultations on the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the post-2015 development agenda, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and IPU jointly organized a Parliamentary Meeting at the Fourth Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in May 2013 in Geneva. The session was attended by members of parliaments from 26 countries and four regional parliamentary assemblies. It adopted a number of recommendations regarding governance for disaster risk reduction and secured the commitment of parliamentarians to contribute to the post-2015 Framework.

- With the support of UNDP country representatives, and in cooperation with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, IPU worked to organize a number of focus groups in a select number of parliaments to provide global-level feedback on how parliaments are working to mainstream implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action. The results of the focus groups fed into a session of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs on the follow-up to the Istanbul Programme held on 7 October 2013 in Geneva. The High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, Gyan Chandra Acharya, was among the high-level participants in the session. At the initiative of the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and in consultation with IPU, a guidance note for United

Nations country representatives and parliamentarians on how they can work together to assist with the implementation and further mainstreaming of the Istanbul Programme of Action was produced early this year.

- IPU and UNDP jointly produced a publication entitled "Effective Laws to End HIV and AIDS: Next Steps for Parliaments". The publication provides examples of legislation from around the world that has been effective in limiting the spread of HIV, and draws lessons from the experiences of the parliamentarians involved. The objective of the study is to illustrate the positive impact that parliaments can have on the response to HIV and inspire greater parliamentary scrutiny of laws that hamper effective HIV interventions, particularly those that criminalize key populations.

- UNAIDS and IPU pursued their close collaboration in the area of HIV/AIDS, particularly within the setting of the IPU Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS and Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. A joint road map on future collaboration was agreed, which defines IPU as a key UNAIDS partner for leveraging parliamentary leadership to support increased access to HIV treatment. UNAIDS will provide funding to IPU to further assist in these efforts. A Parliamentary Meeting at the XIX International AIDS Conference was organized in July 2012, in Washington, D.C., in cooperation with UNAIDS. Entitled "AIDS in 2012: What will it take to stop the epidemic", the meeting brought together some 60 Members of Parliament attending the main event. In May 2013 in South Africa, IPU participated in the Thanda Dialogue on Enhancing AIDS Governance, an informal brainstorming meeting convened jointly by UNAIDS and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The session sought to identify future directions for the governance of the AIDS response, amplifying voice, strengthening norms of inclusion and non-discrimination and identifying novel forms of accountability.

- The UNFPA Regional Office for East and Southern Africa provided financial, technical and logistical support for a planning meeting to consult with parliamentarians and other actors on an IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians on Women's and Children's Health, published in 2013. The meeting was conducted in Uganda and saw the participation of 25 parliamentarians, who provided much-needed input to the final production stage of the manual. UNFPA and WHO continued to participate in the technical Reference Group of the IPU project on maternal, newborn and child health. For its part, IPU submitted a report to the Secretary-General on progress made by the organization in honouring its commitment to the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. With support from UNICEF, IPU conducted field missions to take stock of how the rights of children are being protected in the countries that host IPU Assemblies.

- Maternal, newborn and child health was also a subject of cooperation between IPU and WHO. With WHO funding, IPU conducted a multi-country seminar hosted by the Bangladesh Parliament on accountability for women's and children's health (Dhaka, 30-31 July 2013). WHO also contributed to IPU knowledge products, such as the Handbook for Parliamentarians on Sustaining Parliamentary Action to Improve Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and a study on the scale and impact of child marriage in Africa. It also provided assistance to the Parliament of Kenya in conducting a rapid assessment of the

legislative environment for women's and children's health and supported the Parliament of Uganda in developing an advocacy strategy for women's and children's health. For its part, IPU supported several WHO events to implement the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health. Support included the participation of IPU technical staff and senior management as well as efforts to facilitate the participation of parliamentarians in the meetings. IPU contributed to the first report of the independent Expert Review Group on Accountability for Women's and Children's Health.

- The 2012 session of the Parliamentary Conference on the WTO, a joint IPU-European Parliament initiative, took place at WTO premises in Geneva. Entitled "Back to Basics: Connecting politics and trade", the meeting examined the current trade regime from the perspective of job creation and economic growth. It also featured a hearing with the WTO Director-General. The 2013 session of the Conference took place on the occasion of the 9th WTO Ministerial Conference in Bali, with the House of Representatives of Indonesia providing support. Participants stressed the need for the Bali ministerial meeting to make progress on four key issues, namely, trade facilitation, agriculture, food security and issues of particular concern to the Least Developed Countries.

IV. International peace and security

- At the invitation of the President of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations and as part of the Working Group's May 2013 session, IPU organized a parliamentary panel debate at the United Nations Office at Geneva to help mobilize government action on comprehensive nuclear disarmament negotiations. The parliamentary panel heard several presentations, including one by the President of the IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. It was well-attended by States Members of the United Nations, experts, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

- The Executive Secretary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) participated in a Workshop on New Tools to promote nuclear disarmament at the 127th IPU Assembly, in Quebec City, on 24 October 2012. The workshop elaborated on the IPU Handbook for Parliamentarians on Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. A special discussion on the Handbook was held on the occasion of UN Day in October 2013, in which the Executive Director of the CTBTO was represented along with a senior adviser to the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. The CTBTO also provided technical advice to IPU through a consultative process on the draft resolution entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free-world: The contribution of parliaments", which was adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly in March 2014.

- The IPU worked closely with the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs and the World Future Council to prepare the 2013 edition of the Future Policy Award in the area of disarmament. The Jury, of which IPU is a member, met to discuss the 25 policies (national and regional) under consideration. The

award ceremony took place on 23 October 2013 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. It helped to highlight good and innovative disarmament policies that can inspire action by other countries.

- IPU began discussions with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), which seeks to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The idea is to engage more closely with parliaments and IPU to facilitate the implementation of the namesake resolution through proactive national legislation and stronger parliamentary oversight. A discussion on the Committee's work and on the overall need for implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) took place during the session of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs held during the 129th Assembly in October 2013.

- The 2012 edition of the joint Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations, entitled "A road less travelled: Parliamentary approaches to conflict prevention, reconciliation and peacebuilding", helped to highlight how parliaments can support peace around the world both on their own and in cooperation with the United Nations. Several senior officials and permanent representatives participated along with about 200 members of parliament. The discussion looked into concrete scenarios in which parliament was able to prevent political violence or help to build an environment that is conducive to reconciliation. A separate session delved into the question of Security Council reform.

- In close coordination with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, a mission of the Advisory Group of the IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs took place in Côte d'Ivoire in June 2013. The mission took the cue from the outcome of the 2012 Parliamentary Hearing at the United Nations to look further into the modalities of interaction between United Nations field operations and the parliament as both work to support political stability. A third mission was conducted in February this year to explore the United Nations humanitarian and reconstruction efforts in Haiti and the role of parliament.

- A Handbook for parliamentarians was produced by IPU together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in 2013. Entitled "Internal Displacement, Responsibility and Action", the guide aims to help parliamentarians put appropriate legislation in place to effectively tackle the scourge of some 28 million internally displaced people as a result of armed conflict and a host of other human rights violations. With support from UNHCR, the IPU Committee to Promote Respect for International Humanitarian Law conducted a mission to the Syrian Arab Republic to take stock of the refugee crisis and raise the awareness of the parliamentary community at large. As a result, the IPU President launched an appeal to the parliamentary community to support the United Nations Regional Response Plan 5 in support of Syrian refugees and host communities.

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Agenda item 160
Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan

Financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

Background

1. The Security Council established the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) by its resolution 1996 (2011). The mandate of UNMISS was subsequently extended by resolutions 2057 (2012) and 2109 (2013), and the current mandate is due to expire on 15 July 2014. In its resolution 1996 (2011), the Council authorized the deployment of 7,000 military and 900 police personnel.

2. In its resolution 67/280 on the financing of UNMISS, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $924,426,000 gross for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014. These resources were to support the deployment of 166 military observers, 6,834 military contingent personnel, 900 United Nations police officers, 1,018 international and 1,750 national staff (including 56 temporary positions), 570 United Nations Volunteers, and 91 government-provided personnel.

3. By its resolution 2132 (2013), adopted on 24 December 2013 in response to the rapidly deteriorating situation in South Sudan, the Security Council decided to temporarily increase the military component to up to 12,500 troops and the police component to 1,323 (including formed police units) in order to give to UNMISS adequate capacity to support the protection of civilians, the protection of United Nations staff and assets and installations, the conduct of human rights monitoring and investigations, and the creation of security conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance as a result of the crisis that started on 15 December 2013.

4. In the same resolution, the Council authorized all necessary steps to facilitate inter-mission cooperation, including the transfer on a temporary basis of troops, force enablers and multipliers from other missions, in particular the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and

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the United Nations Mission in Liberia, subject to the agreement of the troop-contributing countries.

5. Further to that resolution, and in response to a request, the Security Council in a letter from its President (S/2013/784) took note of the Secretariat's intention to generate forces and assets in addition to inter-mission cooperation.

6. These additional forces have included two tactical helicopters, one level II medical unit and 500 additional troops to supplement a unit to be transferred to UNMISS from the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

7. In a report dated 6 March 2014 (S/2014/158), an update was provided to the Council on the situation in South Sudan. In that report, the Council was requested to consider authorizing, for a 12-month period, UNMISS military strength at 12,500 military personnel and an increase in its police strength by four formed police units. It was reported to the Council that, keeping in mind the situation on the ground and the ability of troop-contributing countries to deploy in a timely manner, the deployment of the military surge capacity will take place in three phases, phase one being the period to 31 March 2014, phase two being the period to 30 June 2014, and phase three being the period after 1 July 2014.

8. A proposal was also made for the reprioritization of the Mission's mandated tasks towards five main activities, namely, (a) protecting civilians under imminent threat of violence; (b) contributing to the creation of security conditions conducive for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, as requested and within capability; (c) increasing human rights monitoring and reporting; (d) fostering intercommunal and national dialogue; and (e) supporting the Intergovernmental Agency for Development monitoring and verification mechanism and political dialogue in support of the Addis Ababa negotiations, if and when requested.

9. This would represent a strategic shift for UNMISS, from a stand dedicated to peacebuilding, State-building and the extension of State authority to one of strict impartiality in its relations with both parties. This shift is necessary to enable liaison and coordination activities with both parties for the effective implementation of the Mission's redefined priority tasks in conflict-affected areas. The Council has been requested to endorse this temporary reprioritization of the Mission's mandated tasks pending a more thorough integrated review of the mandate once the parties to the conflict have reached a comprehensive political agreement. However, to prevent further destabilization, the Mission will continue mandate activities in the States which have so far been less affected by the conflict, provided that they do not directly contribute to enhancement of the fighting capacities of the parties to undermine the Addis Ababa negotiations. The Mission will also support the enhancement of accountability, transparency and respect for human rights by the national rule of law and justice sectors, and support the national police contingent upon strict implementation of the human rights due diligence policy.

Interim resource requirements for 2014/15

10. Pending the Council's decision on these recommendations, it is necessary to ensure that sufficient financing arrangements are in place to allow commitments to be entered into to ensure the continuity of UNMISS operations for the initial part of the 2014/15 period. Given the temporary nature of the current Security Council authorization of additional uniformed personnel (primarily under inter-mission cooperation), the resulting significant uncertainty around a number of central and

material planning assumptions, and the interim nature of this request for the authority to enter into commitments, the resources requested represent a conservative proposal which balances both the uncertainties in the operating environment which UNMISS faces and the necessity to ensure continuity of its operations in the initial part of the 2014/15 period.

11. Requirements are based on the authorizations of the Council in its resolutions 2109 (2013) and 2132 (2013) and additional preliminary planning information and do not anticipate any further decisions that the Council may make in response to the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/158; see paras. 7 to 9 above). This proposal also ensures that all costs relating to any continuation of inter-mission cooperation arrangements beyond 30 June 2014 would be funded from UNMISS.

12. At this stage there it is clear that major new costs would arise in addition to the 2013/14 baseline as a result of resolution 2132 (2013). These include costs for freshly generated uniformed personnel, the need to emplace troops and contingent-owned equipment, provide for full operational sustainment, including rations and legislative payments, and to provide accommodation and establish facilities.

13. The estimated resource requirements are based on current planning, which includes the phased deployment of up to 12,500 military contingent personnel and 1,460 police personnel under Group I, and 1,018 international staff and 1,750 national staff (including 56 temporary positions), 570 United Nations Volunteers and 91 government-provided personnel under Group II. Under Group III operational costs, proposed funding includes resources for 7 fixed-wing aircraft and 20 helicopters. Notwithstanding the increase in the strength of uniformed personnel and related operational activities, no additional resources are requested for civilian staff as it is assumed that civilian support for the additional troops will be prioritized within the existing capacity already present in UNMISS.

14. The financial resources required for the six-month period commencing 1 July 2014 are presented in the table.

Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Cost estimates (1 July to 31 December 2014)*
Military and police personnel	
Military observers	3 731.9
Military contingents	182 314.6
United Nations police	15 718.9
Formed police units	8 504.0
Subtotal	**210 269.4**
Civilian personnel	
International staff	88 786.7
National staff	20 678.5
United Nations Volunteers	9 179.7

Category	*Cost estimates (1 July to 31 December 2014)*
General temporary assistance	3 575.9
Government-provided personnel	1 736.9
Subtotal	**123 957.7**
Operational costs	
Consultants	568.5
Official travel	4 103.0
Facilities and infrastructure	109 222.6
Ground transportation	17 912.4
Air transportation	77 395.5
Naval transportation	3 519.4
Communications	10 029.7
Information technology	6 214.2
Medical	944.8
Special equipment	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	34 181.9
Quick-impact projects	1 000.0
Subtotal	**265 092.0**
Gross requirements	**599 319.1**
Staff assessment income	9 904.2
Net requirements	**589 414.9**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	–
Total requirements	**599 319.1**

15. A detailed budget proposal for 2014/15 will be prepared for consideration during the main part of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. The interim period will enable the Mission to develop a comprehensive budget submission which will incorporate fully any decisions taken by the Security Council, and which will cover the full scope of UNMISS operations during the 2014/15 period.

16. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 are:**

(a) **Authorization for the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in the amount of $599,319,100 for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015;**

(b) **Assessment of the amount of $48,332,185 for the period from 1 to 15 July 2014;**

(c) **Assessment of the amount of $550,986,915 for the period from 16 July to 31 December 2014 at a monthly rate of $99,886,517 should the Security Council decide to continue the mandate of the Mission.**

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Agenda items 34 and 38

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 3 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to draw your attention to ongoing violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia recorded for March 2014 (see annex). As seen from the annexed table, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia continued intensive fire from their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from the territory of Armenia at the positions of the armed forces of Azerbaijan, as well as at populated areas and civilian objects situated in the vicinity of the front line. As a result, one Azerbaijani serviceman, Elvin Hasanov, was killed, and one civilian was wounded.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34 and 38, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-29246 (E) 210414

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Annex to the letter dated 3 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for March 2014[a]

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
1	1 March	0030-0040	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
2		0040-0050	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
3		0045-0050	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
4		0120-0135	Shuraabad and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
5		0125-0135	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
6		0130-0140	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
7		0135-0145	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
8		0450-0455	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
9		1255-1300	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
10		2130-2135	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
11	2 March	0030-0035	Shuraabad and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
12		0155-0220	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK and AKM	–
13		0215-0220	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
14		0350-0355	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

[a] Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
15		0350-0355	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
16		0555-0605	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
17		2130-2145	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
18		2150-2200	Voskepar village (Noyemberyan district, Armenia) and Ashaghy Eskipara village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
19	3 March	0100-0110	Kengerli and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
20		0520-0530	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
21		1310-1315	Orjenekidze village (Krasnoselsk district, Armenia) and Garaveliler village (Gedabey district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
22	4 March	0130-0133	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
23		0310-0340	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
24		0340-0350	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
25		0340-0400	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
26		0340-0400	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
27		0400-0410	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
28		0450-0500	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
29		0605-0610	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
30		1555-1600	Levonarkh and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
31		2310-2315	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
32	5 March	0145-0150	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
33		0210-0240	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
34		0215-0220	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
35		0500-0510	Kengerli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
36		0530-0535	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
37		0535-0540	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
38		1015-1020	Shykhlar and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK and DShK	–
39		1255-1300	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
40		1425-1435	Berd district (Armenia) and Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
41		2055-2105	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
42		2155-2200	Yusifjanly and Mirzaahmadverdiler villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
43		2210-2220	Berd district (Armenia) and Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
44	6 March	0355-0405	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
45		0515-0520	Saryjaly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
46		0540-0550	Javahirli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
47		2115-2125	Barekamavan village (Noyemberyan district, Armenia) and Kemerli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PK and AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
48		2325-2335	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
49		2335-2340	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
50	7 March	0005-0015	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
51		0125-0135	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
52		0145-0150	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
53		0150-0200	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
54		0340-0350	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
55		0345-0350	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
56		0630-0645	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
57	8 March	0400-0410	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
58		0615-0625	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
59		2211-2214	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
60		2245-2250	Garagashly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
61		2345-2348	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
62	9 March	0105-0111	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
63		0315-0320	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
64		0310-0320	Bash Garvand and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
65		0425-0430	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
66		0515-0520	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
67		0515-0530	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
68		1740-1750	Kurdeliler village (Goygol district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and PK	–
69		2140-2205	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK, PK and DShK	–
70		2330-2340	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
71	10 March	0105-0115	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
72		0100-0120	Shykhlar and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
73		0215-0220	Javahirli and Garadaghly villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
74		0345-0350	Shykhlar and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
75		0515-0530	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
76		0820-0835	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
77		1045-1050	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
78		1130-1300	Mosesgekh and Aygepar villages (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
79		1130-1300	Chinari village (Berd district, Armenia) and Aghdam village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
80		1600-1630	Chinari village (Berd district, Armenia) and Aghdam village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–

No	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
81	11 March	0350-0355	Gorʂan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
82		0430-0435	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
83		0430-0435	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
84		0433-0435	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
85		1820-1823	Voskepar village (Noyemberyan district, Armenia) and Ashaghy Eskipara village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
86		2230-2235	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
87		2320-2325	Aygedzor village (Berd district, Armenia) and Munjuglu village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
88		2330-2335	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
89	12 March	0002-0005	Javahirli and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
90		0005-0010	Jerabert and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
91		0555-0615	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
92		0800-0805	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
93		1910-1920	Jerabert and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
94		2045-2105	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
95		2310-2315	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
96	13 March	0435-0455	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
97		0605-0610	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
98		1600-1620	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
99	14 March	0200-0210	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
100		0200-0215	Shuraabad and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
101		0220-0330	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
102		0245-0300	Levonarkh and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
103		0450-0455	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
104		1325-1340	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
105		1440-1450	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	DShK	–
106	15 March	0005-0010	Mosesgekh village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
107		0130-0135	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
108		0135-0140	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
109		1715-1730	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	PK	–
110		2245-2250	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
111	16 March	0130-0135	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
112		0140-0147	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	Date	Time	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Casualties and damages
113		0210-0220	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
114		0230-0240	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
115		0230-0240	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
116		0230-0240	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
117		0240-0245	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
118		0410-0415	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
119		0420-0430	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
120		0530-0540	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
121		1200-1205	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
122	17 March	0300-0310	Garagashly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
123		0415-0420	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
124		1150	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	A serviceman of the armed forces of Azerbaijan was killed
125		1830-1845	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK and DShK	–
126		2015-2018	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK and DShK	–
127	18 March	0305-0310	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
128		0310-0315	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
129		0745-0750	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
130		0820-0830	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
131	19 March	0050-0100	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
132		0315-0325	Garagashly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
133		0410-0430	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
134		0450-0455	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
135		0510-0520	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
136		0520-0525	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
137		0530-0535	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
138		0530-0535	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
139		0545-0550	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
140		0545-0550	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
141		1940-1945	Chinari village (Berd district, Armenia) and Aghdam village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
142		2155-2205	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
143	20 March	0405-0415	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
144		0500-0510	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	Date	Time	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Casualties and damage
145		0510-0520	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
146		2015-2020	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
147		2310-2315	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
148	21 March	0000-0005	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
149		0030-0040	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
150		0130-0140	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
151		0145-0155	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
152		0230-0235	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
153		0230-0235	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
154		0315-0320	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
155		0315-0320	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
156		0340-0345	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
157		0340-0345	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
158		0515-0520	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
159		0515-0520	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
160		0540-0545	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
161		0555-0605	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
162		0610-0615	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
163		2335-2340	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
164	22 March	0010-0020	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
165		0035-0050	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
166		0110-0115	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
167		0115-0120	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
168		0130-0135	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
169		0200-0210	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
170		0220-0230	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
171		0250-0255	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
172		0320-0340	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
173		0324-0415	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
174		0500-0507	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
175		0500-0515	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
176		1810-1815	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
177		2325-2350	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
178	23 March	0040-0050	Levonarkh and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
179		0115-0120	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
180		0130-0145	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
181	24 March	0110-0120	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
182		0050-0105	Barekamavan village (Noyemberyan district, Armenia) and Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK and DShK	–
183		0220-0225	Kengerli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
184		0220-0230	Parakavar village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Kohne Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
185		0230-0235	Garagashly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
186		0410-0440	Kengerli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
187		1150-1210	Orjenekidze village (Krasnoselsk district, Armenia) and Galakend village (Gedabey district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and PK	–
188		1400-1405	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
189		1400-1405	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
190		1545-1615	Novruzlu village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
191		1615-1630	Karagullar village (Dashkesen district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
192		1705-1730	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
193		1740-1800	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
194		1945-2000	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
195		2310-2320	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
196	25 March	0250-0255	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
197		0250-0255	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
198		0340-0345	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
199		0440-0455	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
200		0455-0500	Shirvanly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
201		0455-0500	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
202		0630-0635	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
203		1000-1040	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
204		1510-1525	Parakavar village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Kohne Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
205		1645-1655	Levonarkh and Hasangaya villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
206		1850-1935	Mosesgekh and Aygepar villages (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
207		2030-2035	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
208		2030-2040	Jerabert and Karniravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
209		2215-2230	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK and AKM	–
210	26 March	0005-0010	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
211		0315-0320	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
212		0320-0325	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
213		1915-1920	Voskepar village (Noyemberyan district, Armenia) and Ashaghy Eskipara village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
214	27 March	0110-0130	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
215		0130-0140	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
216		0140-0145	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
217		0415-0420	Shuraabad and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
218		0600-0610	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
219		0620-0625	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
220		1510-1520	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
221		1620-1630	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
222		1810-1840	Karagullar village (Dashkesen district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
223		2015-2020	Ashaghy Veyselli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
224		2050-2105	Kurdeliler village (Goygol district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–
225		2115-2120	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
226		2230-2250	Parakavar village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Kohne Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AK and PK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
227		2310-0000	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	PK and DShK	–
228	28 March	0005-0150	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM, PK and DShK	An Azerbaijani civilian was wounded
229		0300-0310	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
230		0500-0510	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
231		0500-0510	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
232		0515-0520	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
233		0835-0840	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
234		1440-1445	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
235		1740-1845	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–
236		1835-1845	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
237		1915-1945	Aygepar village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	DShK	–
238		1915-2150	Mosesgekh and Aygepar villages (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
239		2030-2100	Mosesgekh village (Berd district, Armenia) and Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
240		2035-2120	Mosesgekh village (Berd district, Armenia) and Alibeyli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
241		2205-2225	Mosesgekh village (Berd district, Armenia) and Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
242	29 March	0130-0200	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
243		0135-0220	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
244		0145-0155	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
245		0240-0245	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
246		0310-0320	Berkaber village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
247		0550-0555	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
248	30 March	0100-0105	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
249		0410-0415	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
250		0520-0525	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
251		2215-2220	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
252	31 March	0110-0120	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
253		0150-0200	Shuraabad and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
254		0157-0202	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
255		0410-0415	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
256		0410-0415	Horadiz and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
257		0420-0425	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–

No.	*Date*	*Time*	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Casualties and damages*
258		0425-0430	Gorgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
259		0450-0455	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
260		0535-0545	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK	–
261		1945-1910	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM and DShK	–
262		2130-2230	Parakavar village (Ijevan district, Armenia) and Kohne Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	–

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; PK, Kalashnikov machine gun.